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SUMMARY OF NEWS.

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Politics of Europe

The Shipping Report of yesterday announced the arrival of the *LARKINS*, Captain Wilkinson, from Madras; *LA NOUVELLE ALLIANCE*, from Bordeaux, the 31st of May; and two Arab Vessels from Muscat. We have not yet learnt that either of these has brought any News of importance, although the French Ship may probably have Papers of a latter date than those last received from England. Should any such come into our possession, we shall not fail to communicate whatever intelligence of interest they may contain.

We have given a large portion of our present Number to a whole Chapter from Sir George Staunton's late Work on China, in reply to an Article that appeared in the *EDINBURGH REVIEW*, for February, 1818, supposed to have been written by Mr. Crawford now on a Mission to Siam.

In the Asiatic Sheet will be found a Report of the measures taken for the formation of a Committee to assist in the Relief of the Distressed Irish, to which we beg to direct the reader's attention. The remaining space will be found occupied with articles of European News.

London, May 13, 1822.—We have to regret that a continued press of matter has hitherto prevented us from availing ourselves of the information we possess on the subject of the Ionian Islands, which have been governed with so little regard to justice and humanity, to true policy, and the reputation of this country. As the subject is to be brought before the House to-morrow by Mr. Hume, we seize the present opportunity of advertizing to it in a general manner, which is all that our limits will now allow us to do. We have matter in our possession which would fill volumes.

We pass over the Venetian Sovereignty (mildness itself compared to the present Government), and the events which succeeded the fall of Venice, down to 1800, when the Seven Islands were formed into an Independent Republic. In a short time the greatest improvements took place. A Greek University was founded at Corfu, and an Ionian Academy, which counted among its associates some of the highest characters for letters and science in Europe. The Peace of Tilsit put an end to this career of prosperity and improvement, and the Seven Islands were annexed to the French Empire, by a Decree of BONAPARTE.

Through the invitation of the Inhabitants, Great Britain in 1809, sent a force to co-operate with them in reducing the French force there, and in restoring their ancient Government. The Inhabitants received the British troops with open arms, and they took possession of the Islands of Zante, Cephalonia, Cerigo, Ithaca, almost without firing a musket shot. The flag of the Septinsular Republic once more waved over the fortresses, and the British Ambassador at the Porte (Mr. ADAIR) announced to the Turkish Government its revival, and caused the Septinsular Ships then at Constantinople to hoist the Republican flag. If the Septinsular Republic was not at once restored to all its rights, and re-established in all its forms, this was merely because Corfu, the capital and seat of Government, the island of which the position and fortresses were of most consequence, was still occupied by the French;—it was only in consequence of the entrance of the Allied Armies into Paris in 1814, that Great Britain took

possession of Corfu in the name of the Allied Powers of Austria, Russia, Prussia, and herself.

The Ionians, relying on the promises of England, flattered themselves now that they should regain their former independence and their former government, and the first act of the Senate of Corfu, composed of Representatives from each Island, elected by the islands when a Republic, and never dissolved by Bonaparte, was to address a Memorial to the Emperor of Russia, stating their expectations and hopes. This Memorial, dated 21st May, 1814, was about to be formally brought before the Congress at Vienna, when General Campbell arrived at Corfu as Commissioner of the Allied Powers, and declared that the English Government did not recognize the existence of an independent Ionian nation. Every Ionian who remembered the pledges of the Emperor Alexander, on declaring war against France in 1812, of restoring to the Islands their independence, of which the chances of war had dispossessed them, and the proclamations of the British commanders in taking possession of the Islands, on the reduction of any part, the Septinsular flag must be hoisted and not the British, which conforming to the general conduct you are to observe, will signify to the native inhabitants that it is not a conquest you are engaged in, but the expulsion of the French to liberate them from bondage (Papers presented to the House of Commons, 8th April, 1816; Lord Collingwood's Instructions, and Proclamation of the British commander), was astonished at the language of the declaration of General Campbell.

The harsh Proclamation issued on taking possession of Corfu exhibits a striking contrast to that issued by the French General Douzelot on taking leave of the islands. The French, although absolute masters of the Ionian Islands, by right of conquest, respected nevertheless the laws and institutions and national rights. Gen. Campbell, though he merely occupied Corfu provisionally, assumed not only the military, but also the civil power, subjecting to himself every tribunal, and recognising no law but his own will. He treated the people with a severity which they had never felt before, and which they only endured because there was no appeal. He abolished the University and dissolved the Academy, and reduced the printing presses to one, which, with the Post Office and Police, he took into his own hands, employing only foreigners, whom he had had under him in Sicily.

A Treaty signed at Paris, on the 5th of November, 1815, assigned to the Ionian Islands an honourable place in the great European Commonwealth, erecting them into a free and independent State, and placing their freedom and independence under the protection of Great Britain.

The intrigues resorted to in order to defeat the intentions of the Allies, previous to the arrival of General Maitland, we shall pass over. It was supposed that the conduct of General Campbell was not sanctioned by Government, but General Maitland soon destroyed this illusion, by issuing a Proclamation on the 17th of February 1816, announcing that the conduct of his predecessor had obtained the approbation of his Britannic Majesty's Government. It would seem as if General Maitland, in holding this language, had in view his own popularity at the expense of his Government, by showing that he could follow the system of his predecessor if he chose without any risk, for he

soon afterwards issued other Proclamations disapproving of some of the most important acts of General Campbell's administration, abolishing his corn monopoly as unnecessary and odious, reversing his sentences, dismissing in a disgraceful manner by public Proclamation the British Treasurer who had acted under his orders, and (what is hardly credible) he even appointed a Commission to receive all complaints which any persons had to make against the conduct of his predecessor, which but a month before he declared had received the approbation of his Majesty.

General Maitland had, before his coming, formed an opinion of the character of the Islanders, very different from that which he found them to possess. He thought of finding them like those whom he had been used to command in the West Indies and at Malta, where he could have done any thing, not only without opposition, but without fear of a knowledge of his acts reaching Europe. Instead of this, he found men of talents and education, skilful in managing the affairs of their own country, many of them having relations in the service of foreign Courts, and having foreign Consuls residing among them, through whom Europe learned every one of his acts before his own Government did. He soon saw that the departure from the sense of the Treaty of Paris, and the stripping the people of their independence, by imposing on them a Constitution, under which he alone should have all the power, would be a work of great difficulty than he had anticipated. He could not, however, succeed in his plan so long as the Ionian Senate existed as a body. It was composed of three Deputies of Corfu, three of Zante, three of Cephalonia, and one of Santa Maura, and was presided over by Prince Comuto. It had existed under the Septinsular Republic; the French continued; and the British found it existing when they arrived at Corfu. General Maitland intimated to the Senate that he would not acknowledge it as a Body representing the Seven Islands, but only as representing Corfu.—The Senators appealed to the Treaty of Paris, which stipulated in article 4, that until a Constitutional Charter should be prepared and ratified, the existing forms of Government were to remain in vigour in the different Islands. In order to manage this body, he wished to have an instrument within itself, and contrary to the pledge he gave on his arrival, of making no alterations in the Government of each Island, he appointed as President of the Senate Emanuel Theotoki, a native of Corfu, a man versed in all the arts of intrigue, and bearing the worst character; a eulogist of the Russians under the Russians, and detesting the French; under the French, a bitter enemy of the English; and under the English the bitter enemy of every other nation. Immediately after Theotoki took his seat in the Senate, he renewed the proposition in the name of the General, that it should call itself the Senate of Corfu, and not of the Seven Islands. The Senate resisted the attempt; Theotoki however broke up the sittings, and referred the question to General Maitland. The Senators addressed a Memorial to the General, referring to the Treaty of Paris. The Memorial was sent back, with a declaration that he could only receive communications through the President, but announcing at the same time that he should refer the question to his Majesty's Government, and two days after his declaration, he degraded four of these Senators in the most disgraceful manner as inept and corrupt (*inetti e corrotti*), Proclam 22 and 29 May, and declaring that he did so by authority of his Majesty's Orders in Council. The indignation of all was keenly excited, by his treating in this manner men of the highest honour and character, who had served their country for more than 12 years, for stating their opinion with frankness but with truth. The President, to merit still more the confidence of his Patron, tried to get the people of the country to sign a paper delegating a power to the Lord High Commissioner to form a Constitutional Charter; and a Justice of the Peace of the district of Lefebimo, for having refused his signature, was, under different pretences, dismissed from this office by General Maitland. Having dismissed the only body capable of counteracting his views, he could now do what he pleased. Having gained over a certain number of persons in the different islands, and arranged every thing according to his wishes, he set off for England, in consequence, as he said, of the gracious per-

mission granted to him by his Majesty, to go and receive the Royal instructions relative to the formation of the Constitutional Charter of the State.

We are forced to leave off; but we shall resume the subject to-morrow.

Mexico.—Advices from Vera Cruz, dated January 26, mention, that the corps of Spanish troops, under the command of General Linan, was still in cantonments near the capital, Mexico, as the arrangement by which it had been stipulated, that they should have vessels furnished them, and the means of conveyance to some country in union with the mother country, had not been carried into effect. In the mean time, their pay and rations were supplied to them with the greatest punctuality, but in the occurrences which have recently taken place in New Spain, it is a very singular circumstance that this corps has not been disbanded, or allowed to leave the country. From this circumstance it is evident, that the treaty entered into with O'Donoju, at Cordova, has been referred over to Spain, with a view to ascertain whether any Member of the reigning Family would consent to be crowned in Mexico, one of the main objects of the late revolution, and that no answer had yet been received. The Castle of St. John de Ulua, which commands the harbour of Vera Cruz, is still occupied by a Spanish garrison. It is supposed that a Congress formed of Deputies from the various provinces assembled in conformity to a proclamation, for this purpose issued by the Provisional Government, instituted in Mexico, to deliberate on the final plan to be adopted; but nothing is yet known of the determinations adopted by the assembled Representatives of the Mexican empire. In the mean time, it appears to be the wish of the country to be independent of Spain, yet if possible to avoid a war; to have a Monarchy instead of a Republic, and a Commissioner has been sent to the United States, who experienced a very favourable reception at Washington.

On Saturday we copied an extraordinary article from the GLASGOW COURIER, respecting the French expedition from Martinique, against the Spanish part of St. Domingo, which has since led us into a variety of inquiries; and we now lay the result before our Readers.

Saint Domingo.—We some time ago published an account of the revolution in the city of Santo Domingo, by which the Columbian flag was adopted, and all allegiance to the Mother Country thrown off. This revolution was effected through the influence and exertions of the party of natives, who, in 1808, rose against the French, and with the aid of a British blockading fleet, and 1200 troops from Jamaica, under General Carmichael, expelled the oppressors of their country, who had even formed the mad project of aiding in the subjugation of the contiguous continent and islands, so as to induce them to add to the expected triumph of Napoleon in Spain. No sooner was this revolution in favour of the independence and annexation of the country to the Columbian cause effected, than a counter-project was formed at Santiago, the second city in the Spanish part, and which, previous to the inroads of Dessalines, rivalled the capital in point of riches and population. It is situated 45 leagues from Cape Francois, and sixty from the city of Santo Domingo.—From this place the greatest part of the horned cattle and mules, consumed in the North side of Hayti, have long been supplied, consequently, between both constant relations have been kept up. The inhabitants of Santiago, possessing only local views, and situated in the centre of an island, having little external intercourse, deemed it more conducive to their welfare to coalesce with their Haytian neighbours, who, by the death of Christophe, had acquired a degree of consistency and strength, which Hayti had not enjoyed since the expulsion of the whites. They therefore determined to send overtures to Boyer, and at the time, our readers will remember, we published the form and result of the application.

That Boyer would eagerly avail himself of the opportunity of obtaining possession of a tract of country, nearly twice as large as the one over which the Haytian flag waved, and infinitely more valuable in point of territorial riches, might naturally be expected. The fact is, it always entered into the views of the Haytian

Government to extend its dominion over the Spanish part, not only because this served the purposes of aggrandisement, but because its possession by their natural enemies the French, rendered their own situation precarious, as the Spanish part, owing to its local advantages, can always be wielded as a powerful instrument to divide and subjugate the former French division of the island.

Boyer and his Government had, nevertheless, been withheld through respect and consideration to the Spaniards; but this barrier to his views was removed, for the city of Santo Domingo threw off its allegiance to the Mother Country, and Santiago invited him over as its future protector. He consequently resolved to make a bold push for the whole; an army of upwards of 8,000 Haytians was prepared; he marched, and, it will be remembered, in three weeks the conquest was complete.

We now come to the most curious part of our narrative. In the city of Santo Domingo a number of old French colonists had remained and settled, after the evacuation of the British in 1809, when it was delivered up to the Spanish local authorities. These colonists, connected with that party of the same class in Paris, who for the last twenty years, have been unceasingly instigating the French Government to retake Hayti, and recover for them what they yet preposterously call their *own property*, conceived that this would be a favourable moment to realize their long premeditated scheme. As soon as they learnt that Boyer was coming to claim the supremacy of the Spanish part of the island, they sent up an invitation to the French Admiral at Martinique, offering him the allegiance of the country, and assuring him that they had a large force to withstand Boyer. The last accounts from St. Pierre, dated February 14, mention, that on the preceding day, a ship of the line, three frigates, three transports, four brigs, and four schooners, having on board 2,000 men, and 50 pieces of field artillery, had left that port for Samana, with an intention to take the Spanish part of St. Domingo.

It now appears that the NAUTILUS sloop of war, on her way from the Windward Islands, touched at the city of St. Domingo, and the reports she brought down with her to Jamaica, as contained in several mercantile letters we have had an opportunity of consulting, dated Kingston, March 23, and 24, are to the following effect:—That Boyer had obtained quiet possession of the Spanish part of the Island, when the French Admiral with his fleet arrived off St. Domingo, to whom the Haytian Chief sent a message, informing him, that if he landed a single man on the Islands in enmity, he would order a general massacre of all the French Whites in the Island, and some accounts state that the Whites of other countries were also included in the threat, and that he had also prohibited them from holding property in the Island. The French Admiral bore up, and, it is said, sailed from Puerto Rico; but it is strongly suspected that his intention was to go through the Mona Passage and land at Samana, a peninsula, and not a detached Island, as is generally thought. The bay of this name, in point of size, productions, situation, and communication with the interior, possess incalculable advantages, of which the French have always been particularly sensible.

Our object, in entering on the preceding details, has not only been to give a general idea of the extraordinary affair alluded to, with all the accuracy in our power; but also to promote some inquiries both from the British and French Governments, as a relief to the anxiety that must naturally be felt by parties connected in trade with the quarter alluded to. It is currently reported and believed in the city, that a general embargo has been laid on all the ports in Hayti, and this preliminary measure is interpreted as the forerunner of disaster; as it is further stated that the French Admiral had landed at Samana, and Boyer had marched against him. If this is the case, when we reflect on the past in St. Domingo, we tremble for the consequences. A few days may possibly relieve the public from the present suspense, but, in the meantime, would it not be advisable for some Member of Parliament to ascertain what Ministers know on this subject, particularly as the NAUTILUS has returned home? Numbers of French are now settled and trading in Hayti, and would not the Chamber of Deputies do well to inquire by what authority

the Martinique Admiral has interfered in this affair, by which the lives of many Frenchmen may be endangered, and, particularly, whether it has been through any understanding with Spain?

Marseilles, April 27, 1822.—A vessel is just sailed for Greece with twenty-five military passengers. We have two arrivals from Alexandria and Smyrna. Of the Turkish fleet, thirty-four sail had arrived at Alexandria, on the 14th March, after their defeat by the Greeks; but several had been destroyed in entering the port, by a terrible hurricane. The Pasha of Egypt proposes transporting, in fifty vessels, a number of Albanian troops, and to make a descent on Cyprus and Candy. The Isle of Scio was taken on the 22d March, by the inhabitants of Samos. The ROSALIE left Smyrna on the 24th March, and was summoned back by the French Consul, on account of the massacres, but the captain refused to obey. Our letters from Smyrna are of the second April. The Turks were infuriated by the loss of Scio, which was taken by 3000 Samiotes, after a bloody struggle. They fixed upon the house of the French Consul, of Scio, who sent a courier to Smyrna, on the arrival of whom, a ship of war was dispatched, which removed him, the Catholic Archbishop, and his congregation. A thousand Asiatic Turks had arrived at Smyrna, who were committing all sorts of horrors; assassinating from two to twelve persons per day, and firing in at the windows of the Christians. At Constantinople a fleet is preparing for Scio.

The most satisfactory accounts arrive from the Morea, Candia, Epirus, and Thessaly. The Lord Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, who allows the Turks to go where they please, and to do what they will, has sent a message to the Commander of the Greek fleet, that he is not to sail on the coast of Epirus.

Greek Cause.—The Paris Papers of Thursday last, state the Greek cause to have received an important accession of strength. The Greek peasantry of the north of Thessaly and Upper Macedonia having been compelled to take the field to resist the repeated attempts of the Pasha of Salonichi to deprive them of their arms, formed a body of 7000 men, including the best sharpshooters in Greece, and under the command of Captains Tassos, Diamantes, and Saphirakes, proceeded in the first instance to occupy the defiles of Mount Olympus, the valley of Tempe, and the banks of Peneus; and thence, their numbers increasing on their march, traversed the country as far as Killidervan, on the seacoast. The Macedonian army then commenced the siege of Berrhoe. A body of Turks sent to its relief by the Pasha of Salonichi were defeated, and the place surrendered on the 24th of March. This new insurrection has compelled Chourschid Pasha to relinquish his plan of marching to the relief of Patras. An entrenched camp, occupied by the Turkish troops, under the walls of Patras, is said to have been forced by the Greeks, who, after killing a considerable number of the enemy, carried off 40 pieces of field artillery sent from Constantinople, and a quantity of ammunition. The President of the Greek Congress has notified to the Agents of the European Powers, that all the ports of Crete are in a state of blockade.—Napoli di Romania was on the point of capitulating at the date of the latest advices from Zante (the 4th April). The new Elections for Paris commenced on Tuesday. Letters from St. Petersburg, worthy of credit state, that since the last dispatches from M. de Tatitscheff there was no longer any hope of peace.

In addition to the above information extracted from the Paris Papers, we have to add that Salonichi has been invested by the Greeks, and that an English frigate and another vessel had sailed from Smyrna to protect British lives and property at Salonichi.

Frankfort Papers to the 4th of May have been received. A long article in the JOURNAL DE FRANKFORT, dated Frontiers of Russia, 12th April, contradicts with much vehemence some accounts given in the ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, of the countenance afforded by Russia to Prince Michael Suzzo, as also to the alleged fact of forming the refugee Hetarists into a regiment. "The policy of Russia in the affairs of Greece is so pure, and now so well known," says the letter writer, "that it is only to deprive malevolence of its last arms that we take the trouble of refuting

the lying assertions which are brought forward to feed the curiosity of the reader." We supply the following extract:—

Vienna, April 27.—A new loan is spoken of, but it is not known who will obtain it. The hope of the preservation of peace is still undiminished. Our Court has not yet, on any occasion, declared itself so firmly and decidedly to this effect."

Bombay.—The Lord Chancellor of Ireland has appointed Sir Benjamin Bloomfield to be a Justice of the Peace, for the County of Tipperary.

The accounts received from Ireland on Saturday, are exceedingly afflicting in every point of view, both as to hunger and disorder.

On Saturday, the dispatches for Madras and Bengal, by the ship *PRINCE REGENT*, were closed at the East India House, and delivered to the Purser of that ship.

We understand that the Grand Jury of the County of Middlesex, now sitting at Westminster, formed of some of the most respectable Gentlemen of that City, have determined to recommend in their several Parishes, that the endeavour to assist their distressed fellow-subjects in Ireland, should be taken into immediate consideration, that all the aid and relief possible may be afforded them, before their want and suffering increase and spread too far.

Scottish Hospital.—The Spring Meeting of this useful and well-conducted Charity, was held in the Freemasons' Tavern, on Saturday. His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and St. Andrew's, in the Chair, supported, right and left, by the Marquess of Graham and the Earl of Kinnoull. Several other persons of rank were present; and the company, though not very numerous, was highly respectable. nor were the viands provided by Mr. Cuff, at all to be quarrelled with.—After the cloth had been removed, *Non Nobis Domine*, and some other songs, sung in very decent style, and the usual Court toasts disposed of in the usual manner, the Marquess of Graham proposed the health of the Royal Chairman, to which his Royal Highness replied in a speech of some length. He pointed out his own claim of kinship with Scotsmen through the Electress Sophia; praised the bravery of Scotsmen in the army and navy; expressed satisfaction that the national jarings between Scotsmen and Englishmen had ceased; praised Colonel Stewart's recent publication on the History of the Highland Regiments; and paid some handsome and well-merited compliments to the Managers of the Society. The speech of his Royal Highness was received with a due degree of attention; the healths of the Office-bearers were drunk; a subscription was made amounting to 250*l.*; and the company, after having spent their time in the greatest hilarity and harmony, separated about eleven o'clock.

Court of Kings Bench.—In a report in our paper of Saturday last, the King versus O'Brien, the application for a criminal information was said to be at the instance of Mr. Ellwall, merchant, in London. We have been requested, on the best authority, to state, that Mr. George Ellwall, merchant, of Aldermanbury, was not the applicant, that he is the only merchant in London of that name, and we see that in two other Morning Papers the name of the applicant is said to be "Irwin."

Madrid Papers.—Madrid Papers to the 29th April have been received.—The following extracts go far to shew that the French Government is exerting itself to foment disturbances in the North of Spain:—

Murcia April.—In the night of the 20th, a division of 100 men went in pursuit of the bandit Jaime, who has appeared again at the head of the body of factions, from 150 to 200 in number. It seems that the above division, commanded by Captain Chacon, will be joined by 100 men of the regiment of Malaga.

Jaime, with 36 men, foot and horse, entered Jumilla, and overthrew the Stone (of the Constitution) in the sight of the numerous inhabitants, who patiently suffered it.

At Beniel, three leagues from this city, the Stone was pulled down in the night by some of the people themselves.

At Abanilla and Fortuna, they were expecting that Jaime would do the same, though in these places preparations were making for defence.

Friday's post from Madrid was intercepted by Jaime, and yesterday afternoon the letters arrived, all torn and disordered, which he suffered to pass.

On the same Friday a report was spread that the image of Jesus of Nazareth sweated blood. Our prudent Bishop preached yesterday, to persuade the people of the folly of believing such a story, which is spread by people who never attended mass in their lives.

Barcelona, April 18.—By letters from Figueras we know that the band of Misas is daily increasing. The political chief, Don Peral, who had arrived at that town, was preparing to go in pursuit of him, but the want of troops will probably delay the extermination of the factions. Under such circumstances it seems that one of the regiments in garrison at Barcelona should be employed in the service, but we see with grief that there is no appearance that a measure will be taken, which is so urgently called for, to maintain public order and tranquillity in this province.

April, 19.—According to the accounts which we receive, the number of factions is considerable, who advance from various parts towards Gerona, armed with English muskets. Their uniform is a scarlet jacket, a cross on the arm, with a crown of laurel, and short velvet breeches. Those assembled about Bettonia, are commanded by a priest and a friar. Some affirm that they are recruiting in other parts of the Valles, and it is also affirmed that many French deserters join them; from all we hear, we infer that the conspiracy is more serious than it has been.

April, 20.—The letters which we receive by this post from Figueras, Gerona, and Berga, do but confirm the importance of the conspiracy which has been preparing for some time. Captain Arango, who marched from Figueras, fell in with a party, which he attacked and dispersed, killing two, and taking one prisoner. Misas was at Llarona with 150 men.

By accounts from Gerona of the 17th, small bodies of peasants arrived from all quarters to reinforce the *Army of the Faith*. The night before last 50 men passed by Salrac, going towards Misas, and last night above 100, by San Gregorio.

The Prefect of Perpignan has sent word that he does not know that there are any factions Spaniards in his department, but if there are they shall be sent out of it. One of the prisoners whom the rebels took, and who has escaped, affirms that a French officer belonging to the Cordon, once delivered to Misas 48 ounces and at another time 50. He adds that uniforms are made in France for them.

From Berga we hear that the Chief Montaner has arrived at Patan, coming from Perpignan, with a passport to leave France; he was the head of the Insurgents in those parts last September, and his return to Spain is doubtless arranged with his partisans. We know that the authorities yesterday received this news, and we do not doubt but that they will be convinced of the importance of what is passing, and that bayonets are the only means to arrest the progress of a faction which is much more formidable than it was on the 25th of last month, and will daily become more so, and cause incalculable injury, unless troops are sent, and march with the rapidity of lightning to attack them.

Madrid, April 27.—Numerous letters have been received from Alicante, Moncoar, Oribeula, and Murcia, relating many excesses committed by Jaime in the provinces of Murcia and Alicante. On the 22d, he appeared a quarter of a league from Oribeula, whence 60 men of the first regiment of Catalonia, and many of the militia went out to attack the banditti, whom they put to flight in a few minutes, taking five prisoners, some horses and arms, and a purple standard, with a green cross. The most remarkable circumstance in this affair is the change of character which Jaime has assumed, appearing as an enemy to the Constitution, after having been so long a robber on the highway. There are innumerable conjectures on this subject.

SIR G. T. STAUNTON'S WORK.

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British Factory in China.

NOTE ON THE BRITISH FACTORY IN CHINA, AND THE LATE EMBASSY.

From Sir George Thomas Staunton's *Miscellaneous Notices relating to China*.—London, 1822.

SOME years ago, an article appeared in a distinguished Literary Journal*, containing, certainly, very gross misrepresentations relative to the British Factory in China. These misrepresentations have remained to this day unanswered. It was imagined that they could not possibly deceive any one who took the smallest pains to enquire into the subject; and, with respect to the readers in general of a Literary Journal, it was supposed that they would take too little interest in the question, to render any public reply, specially addressed to them in reutation of such charges, either useful or necessary.

It is probable, however, that this has been somewhat too readily taken for granted. A great part of the alleged facts, fall in very naturally with the opinions of those, whose commercial creed it is, that a further reduction of the amount of the exclusive privileges of the East-India Company, beyond what had been deemed expedient at the period of the last renewal of the charter, would be extremely beneficial to the public interests: and we are all but too ready to receive, without any very strict scrutiny, those statements which seem to make in support, either of our favorite theories, or our pre-conceived interests.

The committees on foreign trade in both houses of parliament, have besides, recently expressed opinions; (and in which the members of his Majesty's government appear to concur,) very favorable to a partial relaxation at least, of some of those commercial restrictions on our intercourse with China; upon which the East-India Company's undisturbed possession of their exclusive right to the trade with that country, has hitherto been considered mainly to depend. It really becomes therefore a question of some practical importance to the public, in what manner their important privileges, in this respect, are at present exercised: in other words, what is the actual constitution, and what has been the general conduct of that British Factory; to which the local administration of their affairs in China is, upon the existing system, exclusively confided:

It would be idle to dwell in this place at any length, on the importance of this trust. Almost every one knows that the annual value of the British exports to China has not been less upon an average than about a million sterling, and that of our imports from that country, not less than about two millions; that this trade contributes three or four millions to the revenue, and more than pays the dividends on East-India stock. It is no less universally known, though the fact has not perhaps been equally adverted to, that the trust which involves interests of such magnitude, not being exercised within the reach of the ordinary revision and control of the superintending authorities at home, but at a distance of fifteen thousand miles by sea from our own shores, of necessity requires an unusual degree of confidence, and a delegation of authority, in the first instance, almost without reserve, though exercised under a consequent responsibility, of course, great in proportion.—But there are some other singular circumstances, under which also the British Factory exercise their trust in China, which have certainly not been duly weighed and considered. Stationed at a frontier town, on the remotest verge of the Asiatic continent; living under a government, highly jealous, despotic, and arbitrary, in all its stages, and amongst an extremely sagacious and singular people, whose manners and habits are acknowledged to offer, in many respects, exceptions to all the most received principles among civilized nations, they are neither protected by the physical force of armies, nor by that moral security which is derived from the plighted faith of treaties. They have not even that petty personal security, which almost all other persons placed under similar circumstances of responsibility possess; that of taking their measures, in all critical cases, under the sanction of the opinions and advice of Advocates general, or of any other description of officers learned in the law, for the purpose of entrenching themselves as much as possible, on such occasions, within the technical formalities of our own legal provisions. In cases of the very highest emergency, the gentlemen of the Factory must act, and irrevocably decide, with nothing but sound sense and sober discretion for their guide, though the safety of all the vested interests in the trade, the millions in value of property embarked in it, and even the lives of the individuals engaged in carrying it on, should be involved in the question at issue.

After considering in this general way, the magnitude of the concerns, and the great responsibility of the trust, reposed in the gentleman of the British Factory in China; and keeping in mind that they have no clerks or assistants of any description, for the execution of those details,

which have been called, the "humbler duties of their employment," and that from circumstances of ill-health or other casualties, the effective strength of the Factory seldom exceeds twelve or fifteen persons, it really seems almost superfluous to sit down seriously to reply to the following remark:—"To tell what is the employment of all these persons would not be quite so easy; for we really believe they have little or nothing to do."... Review, p. 440.

In one sense, indeed, it is certainly not very easy to tell the employment of the gentlemen in China; for the union of such various, difficult, and peculiar duties in the same body of public functionaries is certainly very rare, if not without example. It will be sufficient however, with a view to shew that the belief of the Reviewer is not altogether well founded, to state a few particulars.

First, with respect to the duties, which are merely commercial.—A society, which seldom exceeds in fact fourteen or fifteen persons, is charged with the sale of the imported, and the purchase of the exported cargoes of twenty or thirty ships of the largest class, with all the details of loading, and unloading; the examination, selection, and the appropriation of the goods.—The adjustment of loans, bills, exchanges and treasury accounts, with other matters of finance, such as commerce on so large a scale must require: with an extensive correspondence with the several presidencies of India, from each of which they receive considerable annual consignments; exclusive of their much more frequent and voluminous correspondence with their principals at home: with all the requisite diaries, ledgers, books of accounts, and other records connected therewith, registered in duplicate and triplicate, on account of the risk of loss, in the course of their transmission home: and all this in a degree of minuteness of detail, certainly not very usual, but which the East-India Company, in their jealous anxiety to ensure a proper discharge of a trust executed at so great distance, deem it expedient to require.

This then being the commercial charge imposed; no person, who had ever had any opportunity of forming an idea of the extent and intricacy of commercial dealings of such magnitude—a member, for instance, of any great private commercial house in this country, would certainly ever think of making it a question, whether there were, or not, in such case, something to do.—Still, much of the commercial business that is transacted in China, would not have been taken into the calculation.—The previous contracts and other arrangements that precede the arrival of the ships, the local difficulties of a commercial nature which are occasionally to be contended with—the superintendence of the affairs of such Chinese merchants as happen to fall into a state of embarrassment or insolvency:—all, in their turn, contribute to multiply the accounts, and, to enlarge the correspondence of the servants of the Company; and entail on them a proportionate degree of labour, both mental and mechanical.

The regulation and superintendence of the shipping of the Company, while at the port of Canton, forms another and an anxious branch of their duty. But the peculiar and most distinguishing feature of their situation, and that which renders the qualification of an intimate acquaintance with the character and habits of the people, such as a considerable residence among them can alone confer, not merely useful, but almost indispensable, is their official intercourse, direct or indirect, verbal or by letter, with the Chinese provincial government.—It is not here intended to allude merely to those hostile and public altercations, in which they are unfortunately, and in spite of every exertion to the contrary, sometimes involved; and which are always attended with more or less hazard, as well as temporary injury and inconvenience, but rather to those ordinary and more frequent, and indeed almost continual communications, which are taking place between the British and the Chinese authorities, sometimes through the medium of the officers of the latter, but more generally through the Hong merchants; and which as often as the judgment and good sense of the British residents, on the one side, meets with a reciprocal feeling and intelligence, on the part of the Chinese officers, on the other, can hardly fail to terminate every difference in an amicable adjustment, advantageous to both parties.

The Company's immediate interests, besides, it is proper to remark, form but a portion, and often but a slender portion, of the topics, which in these cases are either led or forced into discussion. The situation of his Majesty's ships of war.—The interests and conduct of persons belonging to the country trade from India—and even the interests of foreign ships, sailing under the flags of nations in alliance with Great Britain, have all occasionally occupied the time and attention of the select committee, and have brought them always anxiously, and in some instances painfully and perilously, into contact with the officers of the local government. It was an accidental homicide, unfortunately committed by the gunner of a country ship, which suspended the trade of the Company, and involved them in the most serious dispute with the government, in the course of their generous, but ill-concerted and unsuccessful endeavours to save the unhappy man's life, in the year 1784.—It was the aggression of a commander of a country ship, in 1781, in violation of the Chinese neutrality, which exposed them at that time to the most unmerited insults, and which would have led to the actual seizure

* Edinburgh Review for February 1818.

of their persons, but for the refusal of the Portuguese government of Macao, under which they at that time resided, to concur in such a proceeding*.

On other occasions, the interposition of the servants of the Company, though not forced upon them by the acts of the Chinese government, arose from the special instructions of their employers. To render, for instance, every possible assistance to his Majesty's ships, when frequenting the port of Canton for the purpose of giving convoy to our trade; to obtain for them such supplies and accommodations as may be required, and without which it is obvious they cannot remain upon the station; and, generally speaking, to act as mediators between them and the Chinese, has been at all times considered as an indispensable part of their duty.

And even with respect to the interests of the ships of nations in alliance with us, it will hardly be contended, that we ought not to extend to them also occasionally the benefit of our good offices. It is impossible to read, without some degree of national pride and exultation, the flattering eulogium, which admiral Krusenstern, the Russian circumnavigator, on the character and conduct of Mr. Drummond, when president of the select committee in China; together with the expressions of his grateful acknowledgements, for the important public services that had been rendered him by the British Factory, agreeably to their instructions from England, during his visit to Canton.†

To return to the Reviewer; it must be admitted, that the supposed want of occupation, and consequent uselessness of the gentlemen in China, is afterwards qualified by a description, though a somewhat ludicrous one, of their actual employments: but these are, at the same time, exhibited as little better than absolute idleness itself, by being invidiously contrasted with the asserted opulence and magnificence of their establishment.—The average annual amount of their salaries in the aggregate is said to be about £120,000 sterling; although a simple inspection of the books of the East-India Company, would shew that this is a most gross and unfounded exaggeration.—Even the supposed splendour of their table is arrived against them; although in fact, the obligation which their situation imposes on them, of doing the honors of a public table on behalf of their employers, to all strangers of respectability, though it has at all times been cheerfully executed, is fairly to be considered rather as one of the burthens, than one of the advantages of their establishment. That a public table is maintained at the expence of the East-India Company, to which the members of the factory may at all times resort, is most true;—and that this table is served in a spacious and elegant apartment, and with all the other proprieties and external accompaniments, which are suitable to the due representation of the British name and nation in China, is equally unquestionable.—It may be presumed, that few persons would carry their notions of economy and retrenchment so far as to wish this were otherwise. But with respect to the epithet of *superb* that has been given to it; it may be observed, that even a very moderate degree of comfort and convenience on shore, will be generally found to command the approbation or admiration of persons, who, like most strangers in China, are placed in a situation to contrast the hospitalities which they receive, with their previous privations during a long sea voyage.

It is far, however, from being here intended to under-rate the *real* advantages of a China appointment. It is undoubtedly (though perhaps this is saying too much, as a difference of opinion even upon this point has sometimes been expressed) the best, within the gift of the Court of Directors; not because of the superior amount of the actual emoluments, but because of their ultimate certainty, and of their being realized in a country, where there is, generally speaking, little temptation or necessity for expence; and where the climate is comparatively favourable. Nevertheless, the gentlemen of this establishment do not, in the ordinary course of things find it practicable finally to return to their families at home, until after a period of twenty to twenty-five years service; and if even this severe sacrifice, this long period of painful seclusion and banishment from every thing that is dear to them as Englishmen, may possibly be, on the average, somewhat less in respect to the number of years, than is the case with regard to the other East-India appointments; most persons will readily admit, that the difference is more than made up, by the greater severity of the privations that must be sustained during the interval‡.

* The above cases are slightly noticed in the Appendix to the Lord's Committee on Foreign Trade. p. p. 294, 295.

† Krusenstern's Voyage, vol. ii. p. p. 290—239.

‡ It is true, that the East-India Company, in consideration of the very peculiar situation in which their servants in China are placed, more readily, and more frequently, indulge them with the permission to make an occasional visit to their native shores, during the period of their service, than is usual in other instances. But it must be recollected, that every such indulgence is, of necessity, purchased with a price, not very agreeable to many; namely, their confinement, during the period of another twelve-month of their lives, on board of a ship; that being about the duration of the outward and homeward voyage.

In fact, an Englishman has seldom an inducement, of any description, to remain a moment longer in China than the acquisition of such a fortune, as may enable him to maintain his station at home with decent propriety, may absolutely require: and as the circumstance, which has been already fully admitted, of the China appointments being considered to be, upon the whole, the most eligible, occasions those appointments to be in general conferred on young men of superior expectations, and on eldest sons, who often succeed to their patrimonies previous to the expiration of the ordinary periods of service, they do not perhaps find it necessary, so frequently as the gentlemen destined for the service of the Company in the East Indies, to await the progressive accumulation of a fortune in its full extent; but gladly retire as soon as they may have been enabled to save as much out of their salaries as they may esteem sufficient to make up the deficiency in their paternal inheritances.

It is fair to observe, that the Reviewer disavows all intention of saying any thing personally hostile to individuals.—He adds in a note, "It is needless, we hope, to say, that nothing can be further from our intention than to insinuate any thing whatever to the personal prejudice of the Gentlemen of the Factory in China. Some of them, we know, are persons of the greatest talent and respectability: and all of them, we believe, too good for their employment."—p. 410.

But this is, surely making poor amends for having previously, in the very same page, held them up, collectively, to scorn, as persons holding the most shameful sinecures; as persons, who, while they have in reality little or nothing to do, coolly divide amongst themselves no less than £120,000 sterling, annually, of the public money:—Besides which; even this assurance, that nothing is intended to be insinuated to their personal prejudice; these compliments to their talents and respectability, qualities which are believed to be sufficient to render all of them too good for their employment, are pretty well neutralized in a following page: where they are roundly charged with "folly and presumption," ironically styled "our sapient Factory," stigmatized as "political blunderers," and in short, as so ignorant of, or so unfit for the duties of their stations, that the Reviewer cannot recollect "in the whole history of our connexion with China any one piece of bad policy which did not emanate from their advice."

The reader will not, probably, appreciate very highly an authority, from whence proceed, almost at the same moment, such opposite and inconsistent statements; which throws out sweeping charges; which, unless the previous compliments were most unmerited, must inevitably have been, in great measure, if not altogether unfounded.

The charge, however, against the servants of the East-India Company, in China, which, of all others was the most unlooked-for; and which is built upon grounds, which were really thought to have been the least calculated of any that could have been selected, for the erection of such a superstructure of censure, is contained in a note, commencing with the following words: "The conduct of the supercargoes, in regard to cases of affrays with loss of life, and other instances of manslaughter which have occurred, appears to us to deserve severe reprehensions."—p. 445.

Really if there is any part of the conduct of those gentlemen which might have been supposed peculiarly exempt from attack, it might be added, so unequivocally praise-worthy even as almost to entitle them to something like public and popular favour, it is their disinterested, fearless, and (in every instance for these last thirty years) successful exertions, in protecting the innocent and unhappy objects of unsubstantiated and unproved charges; and thus preventing them from becoming victims to the unprincipled and undistinguishing severity of the Chinese law, such at least, (whatever be the theory,) as it is attempted to be practically administered by the Chinese magistrates in all cases of homicide by foreigners, in which natives are the sufferers.

The case which it was the Reviewer's intention more particularly to visit with his severe reprehension, and upon the circumstances of which, in fact, all his subsequent observations are founded, is obviously, (from the allusion made to a "mock trial.") that prominent one, which occurred in the year 1807.—On that occasion, certainly a very disgraceful riot took place: a party of some fifty or sixty drunken sailors were pelted by a mob of some thousand Chinese; the sailors having armed themselves with sticks, became the assailants in their turn; and when the ground was finally cleared of the combatants, several wounded persons of both parties were discovered; but none were ascertained at the time to have been seriously injured.—One unfortunate Chinese, however, who had received a blow, but had made no complaint upon the spot, and had walked quietly home to his friends, sickened and died on the next or the following day; and the Chinese merchant who had made himself specially responsible to the government for the ship to which the riotous sailors had belonged, having, it was said, neglected or refused in the first instance to make some compensation to the connexions of the deceased, a complaint was laid before a magistrate and a regular demand made that some person should be delivered up into the hands of the Chinese government, as a victim to the offended laws of the country.—It was little less than certain that any

person who might be delivered up to the Chinese, under such circumstances, would suffer death as a murderer*; and it was, therefore, in the opinion of the select committee, still more unquestionable, that none could in this case be so delivered up, as from the nature of the circumstances, the perpetration of the crime could not possibly be fixed on any individual; not only, not with any legal certainty, but not even with a tolerable degree of moral probability—Even the Chinese themselves did not attempt to name, in the first instance, any particular culprit.—So far, however, from endeavouring to protect a real offender from justice, as alleged by the Reviewer, a public trial within the walls of the factory was assented to; the result of which was, that after a general examination of all the sailors implicated, the Chinese *did* select an individual, and upon that individual they immediately fixed the responsibility for the offence. This trial may perhaps be justly called a “mock trial,” and the result of it, “a farce;” but this mockery, if there were any, is imputable to the Chinese, not to the servants of the East-India Company. Nothing can be more utterly false than to represent them upon that occasion as the “suborners of perjury,” and the “corruptors of judges.” Whether any oaths were or were not administered, so as to admit of the possibility of perjury, in the strict sense of the word, having been committed, is not very material; but, unquestionably, if it is intended to be implied that the evidence, which was at that time taken in open court, in the presence of hundreds of spectators, and more especially of the gallant captain of the convoy, now an admiral, was suborned testimony; it is difficult to conceive a more atrocious and unfounded libel. The story of the corruption of the judges, is of a similar kind, as far as the Company’s servants were concerned.

The select committee certainly would not have consented to have delivered up the individual whom the Chinese ultimately named, had he been demanded, because, although he had confessedly been one of the most active in the affray, there was not a tittle of evidence to shew that he had struck the particular blow which had occasioned the death of the Chinese, much less, that he was in any received sense of the word, a murderer.

In what manner the matter was finally made up between the relatives of the deceased, the Chinese Hong merchants, and the provisional government of Canton, never was, and probably never will be, precisely ascertained. One thing however is perfectly clear, that ever what compromise *did* take place, the Company’s Servants were no party to it—It was determined in the Chinese courts of justice, that the offence amounted only to excusable homicide, and the claim of the Chinese government to the possession of the person of the offender, was in consequence abandoned. We may fairly ask what line of policy that writer would recommend, who stigmatizes the cool, temperate, and at length successful resistance of the select committee to the demands of the Chinese government, by which an innocent individual was thus saved from an ignominious death; as a mere “system of bullying,” which, he adds, however it may succeed for a time, must infallibly ruin the cause it expounds in the end!—p. 446.

It is certainly not at all surprising, that a writer who condemns the supercargoes, because, in such grave cases as those of life and death, they were desirous that the offence should in some degree be measured by “our standard of guilt:” and who wished, as far as it was practicable, to sustain “our point of honour,” should, to use his own expression, “have always been incurably blind to the merits or importance of Lord Macartney’s mission to the Ku-tou; and look upon it as a question “about which it was at all times absurd to contend.”—p. 436. Compared with the question we have been now considering, the homage of the *Ku-tou*, however unseasonable and improper on the part of the representatives of independent nations, is a light matter indeed: the sacrifice, though abundantly degrading, is not sealed in blood.

* See Mr. Drummond’s evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons. p. 369.

† A translation of the final edict issued by the Chinese government on the occasion, together with some general remarks on the nature and supposed circumstances of the adjustment, will be found in the Appendix to the Translation of the Chinese Penal Code, p. 516, 521. It is there expressly stated, that, in the story which the Chinese fabricated, the Europeans did not concur, though asserted (by the Chinese) to have done so: and that the witnesses who were supposed to have adopted that story, were Chinese witnesses. If the supercargoes were to be held answerable for all the corrupt intrigues and tergiversations, to which the Chinese, in their transactions with Europeans, occasionally have recourse, they would indeed have hard measure dealt out to them.—At the same time it would be going rather too far, to argue that an adjustment which was perfectly honourable as far as the English were concerned, could not be accepted, because it might be suspected that the compromise among the Chinese, by means of which it was effected, was not equally creditable.—It would be extraordinary indeed to acquiesce implicitly in the proceedings of the Chinese; when they tended to the destruction of an innocent man; and to be scrupulous about them, only when they tended to his preservation.

In support of his opinion in favour of the performance of the *Ku-tou*, the Reviewer quotes what he denominates “the decided opinion of every member of the mission unconnected with the local interests of the Company in China, that the ceremony, if insisted on, ought to be submitted to.” Upon this, it is in the first place to be remarked, that if the word “every” is intended to comprehend more than two individuals, namely, the first and the third members of the commission; it is difficult to say, upon what authority the assertion is grounded; secondly, that the embassy having been sent out to China, solely and entirely for the sake of the local interests of the Company in that country, it was not unnatural that the opinion of the persons connected with that interest should preponderate; and lastly, even with respect to the opinion of the distinguished individuals above alluded to, it pretty clear that it was not a very decided opinion, since they did not resolve to act on it.—Mr. Ellis, on the contrary, in his narrative of the embassy, after summing up the arguments on both sides, concludes with the following candid acknowledgement: “It, however, is difficult for persons, arguing from general principles, to appreciate the exact effects of impression in a particular scene, that impression being probably made up of circumstances with which they are unacquainted, or to which they do not assign their proper importance: the only safe course therefore, on such an occasion, is to defer to local experience.”—p. 154.

Finally, the Reviewer includes “Mr. Morrison, who had much experience of the Chinese, and acquired an admirable facility, in the use of their language”, among those who had the “good sense to consider it as a matter of very little importance, and by no means a point upon which the substantial objects of the embassy should be hazarded.” As to hazarding the substantial objects of the embassy; the question having been reduced to one of mere expediency, that was, in fact the precise ground, upon which compliance with the ceremony was declined:—but with respect to its being in the opinion of Mr. Morrison, a matter of very little importance, we had better hear that gentleman speak for himself:—

In his published memoir upon the late embassy, he concludes a very full and clear statement of this Chinese, or Tartar ceremony, as it is sometimes called, and the spirit in which it is proposed to all foreign ambassadors, in the following words: “These remarks will probably convince the Reader, that the English government acts as every civilized government should act, when she endeavours to cultivate a good understanding and liberal intercourse with China; but, since while using these endeavours, she never contemplates yielding homage to China, she still wisely refuses to perform by her ambassador that ceremony which is the expression of homage.”—p. 143.

It is true, that although always decidedly adverse to a compliance with the ceremony upon general principles, Mr. Morrison did think, at the critical moment at which it was finally demanded and refused, that the peculiar circumstances of that conjuncture might possibly so affect the immediate interests of the East India Company, as to justify a different course; but this is surely something very different from considering it as a matter of very little importance.

To return, however, to the gentlemen of the British factory;—it seems that, in 1814, “they had the folly and presumption to but a stop to the country trade at Canton, and to involve it in their political quarrels.”—It must surely be, at first sight, somewhat incomprehensible to an ordinary reader, how persons situated as the gentlemen are, could, by any possibility, be involved by their own acts, in any thing that could be justly termed a political quarrel; and that being by some means or other, so involved, they should have been mad enough, wantonly and unnecessarily, to have recourse to a measure, which it was not difficult to foresee would be in the highest degree unpalatable to the parties concerned; and which actually drew upon them the strongest personal protests from all the quarters interested, and even an allegation of damages, to the extent of some hundred thousand pounds,—having nevertheless determined to have recourse to such an extreme measure, it would still be difficult to conceive how they, residing unarmed at a neutral port, should have been able to find the necessary means and instruments for enforcing it:—for it was hardly likely that a simple order, in such a case, unsupported by power, would be attended to.

The fact was, that a full statement of the critical circumstances in which our intercourse with China at that time stood, was submitted to the senior captain of his Majesty’s ships then at the port of Canton, a gentleman of unquestioned coolness and good sense, and it was through his co-operation that the measure in question was carried into effect.—It is not very likely that the select committee could have thus obtained his concurrence in an act which undoubtedly was attended with much temporary loss and inconvenience to individuals, and in which, if he concurred at all, he concurred, of course, upon his own individual responsibility, if the case had not only not worn on the face of it, the character of folly and presumption, but had not in fact been clearly shown to have been, one of the highest expediency and necessity.

But let us see how this question has been viewed by the authorities at home.—If it were an act of folly and presumption to stop the country trade, and it had been, as alleged, involved by the supercargoes in their political quarrels, it could not have been a very wise act to suspend, and involve in those same quarrels, the whole of the trade of the East-India Company; in which vested interests were at stake to the extent of some millions sterling.—It will hardly be argued that the East-India Directors could have been, upon that occasion, so totally and perversely blind to the interests of the Company, as to approve of an act of such momentous, it might be almost said, desperate character, if it had not been proved to them to have been justified upon the strongest grounds of necessity; yet when coolly and deliberately reviewing the proceedings of their servants in China, in that affair, a twelve months after, they did sanction them with their entire and unqualified approbation.

The case was briefly this: very strenuous and powerfully seconded exertions had been for some time making by the officers of the Canton provincial government, in conjunction with some individuals among the Hong merchants, chiefly in secret, but disclosed occasionally by outward acts, to put down the system by which the Company's servants have hitherto been enabled to put certain limits, both to the extortions of the officers of the government, and the cupidity of the Hong merchants; and almost to say in both instances, "thus far shall thou go, and no farther." This system was proposed to have been defeated by means of the imposition of various new restrictions on the trade, such as a stricter degree of control over, if not the entire abolition of, all native agency, through the medium of servants or otherwise.—The refusal when presented, or the subsequent rejection unanswered, of all addresses from foreigners, of whatever nature; especially when written in the Chinese character, the only one, in fact, in which they could be read or understood by the parties to whom they were addressed: and finally, by such a reduction in the number of the Hong merchants, and such a close and intimate association together of the remainder, as might render any division amongst them, with a view to competition, or to any other object in which the interests of foreigners were at stake, impracticable.

Had this change in the trade been suffered to be carried into effect, and consolidated by time, there can be little doubt, that it would have gradually drawn into the coffers of the Chinese, a great portion of that revenue which is now derived from it by the English Company and by the English nation, besides raising to a maximum to the English purchaser, the prices of all the productions of China.—There can be no question but that when these newly devised commercial restrictions became generally known, and were perceived to be in active operation, they would be unanimously resisted by all parties. The country trader, the American, and the Portuguese, would all, it is probable, heartily concur with the servants of the East-India Company, in endeavouring to procure their removal. But it by no means follows, that, because this scheme was by the determined conduct of the select committee, thus nipped in the bud, the Chinese local government and mercantile interest at Canton could have been induced or compelled to relinquish it, after it had once been suffered to arrive at maturity, and they had tasted its fruits.—The committee therefore chose their time, or rather they availed themselves of the time for resistance, when they conceived it had arrived, never again perhaps to return. Several casual circumstances occurred to accelerate the crisis; and it fortunately happened that the oppressive measures of the Chinese government had become most odious and intolerable, just at the moment, when the circumstances of the war, having thrown the whole of the trade of the port of Canton into our hands, resistance to those measures could be opposed by us with the best chance of success.—The expedient to which the select committee had recourse was no other than that which had been resorted to by their predecessors, upon a similar extremity, and with similar success, as far back as in the year 1728.—They resolved to suspend the trade until their grievances should be redressed, or at least until the result could be known of an appeal to that supreme authority in the country, from which redress, if not to be obtained at Canton, was alone to be looked for.

It is obvious that such suspension of trade to be effectual to that end, must have been general—and that even if exceptions were admissible, they would have been unjust. The committee had indeed, on many former occasions, shewn how little they were disposed to interfere unnecessarily with the country trade, by suffering it to proceed unimpeded while that of the company was suspended; but the question now at issue with the Chinese involved the interests of all British subjects equally:—it would have been as unjust, therefore, as it was obviously unwise, to have allowed the country trade, a trade of mere indulgence and sufferance, unknown to our laws or the provisions of the charter of the Company, to have engrossed and pre-occupied the market, while that of the Company and their own marine servants was excluded; excluded too with the sole view to the reestablishment of commerce, generally, upon a more secure and advantageous footing for all parties, an object which nothing but the simultaneous exclusion of all, afforded any chance of effecting.

The Chinese government was deeply sensible of the advantage it would derive from the resumption of the country trade during the suspension of that of the Company, and they accordingly, in the midst of their negotiations with the writer of this paper, (then third member of the select committee, acting on that occasion for himself and his colleagues, sent down very plausible addresses to each ship, in succession, inviting them to come up the river and trade as usual, and assuring them that no sort of obstruction existed besides that which was interposed by the servants of the East-India Company. This was exactly what was to have been expected from them: the policy of dividing in order to conquer, is one of which the Chinese are by no means ignorant, and which they have more than once endeavoured to put in practice, in their contests with the English. It was only when they found that they could not divide our forces, that they yielded us the victory. So much then for the "folly and presumption" of stopping the country trade.

It is stated by mistake in the course of the evidence taken before the committee of the House of Commons, that the above invitation was addressed to the country ships only—but by referring to the translation of the document itself, which is printed in the Appendix to the Evidence, it will be perceived that it was sent down to all the English ships without distinction. The language of the invitation was certainly plausible, and displays the peculiar sagacity and ingenuity of the Chinese, both in their attempts to disconnect the ships from the resident authorities, and also, if possible, to place those very authorities themselves at variance and in opposition to each other; and further by their artful endeavours to conceal their anxiety to renew the trade, under the mask of a compassionate regard for the traders themselves, and a sympathy in their supposed sufferings.—It was only their ignorance of our habits and customs that betrayed the Chinese government, in that case, into the use of some statements and arguments, which to us are ridiculous.

It is justly observed by Dr. Morrison, in his "View of China," that "To make out an argument, they are not nice about a strict adherence to truth; nor are their reasons or premises such as Europeans would generally admit; but granting them their own premises and statement of facts, they never fail to prove that those whom they oppose are completely in the wrong."—p. 122.

This is stated still more strongly by Mr. Milne, in his "Retrospect of the first ten years of the Protestant Mission." He observes, "If, in her intercourse with foreign countries, China cannot with truth and justice, make all things appear honourable to herself, she makes no difficulties about using other means:—she discolors narratives,—she misquotes statements,—she drags forth to the light whatever makes for her own advantage, and industriously seals up in oblivion whatever bears against her. She lies by system; and right or wrong, must have all look well on paper."—p. 25. This may seem harsh; but really affords a very useful key for the true exposition of most of their official documents in which foreigners are concerned, and is applicable to none more so than to the particular one in question, which has been noticed here thus fully, only because it has, by some accident or other, obtained the honor of a place among the imperishable records of the British Parliament.

After all, it may readily be conceded that the position taken up by the servants of the Company in China, in 1814, was one of perilous anxiety, which even if they could be supposed to have had no regard to the public welfare, they must, upon the most obvious considerations of private and personal interest, have been most desirous, if possible, to avoid; and which unquestionably involved hazards, such as perhaps nothing short of the concurrence of all the circumstances of that particular case could have entirely justified*. But it seems little less than self-evident, that if such a course of proceeding could have been warranted at any time, or under any circumstances, the suspension of the country trade, no less than that of the Company, must necessarily have formed a part of it.

It has been stated that a victory was gained. The result of the negotiations of 1814, was a treaty or compact in the form of an edict, in

* It was unquestionably a very bold measure; it is not to be dissembled, that had the provincial government held out, and the trade continued suspended until an answer could have been received from Peking, the consequences would have been most embarrassing:—all this was foreseen, and of course taken into calculation when the *dis was cast*.—This has been thus emphatically described by Mr. Ellis in his Narrative, p. 45. "The very desperation of the measure required the utmost firmness in carrying it into effect; and in this the Supercargoes were not wanting."—It would seem that their predecessors had a similar step in contemplation, in the year 1755, and were convinced of its policy, but hesitated very naturally, before they incurred the responsibility. They observe, "Grievances will not be redressed here, unless the Supercargoes have positive orders from the Court of Directors, to insist on certain terms, and if they cannot obtain them, to leave the port; which they now dare not threaten to do.—Such a step must become the act of the Court of Directors—it is too bold for their agents."

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which every point which had been made a *sine qua non* in the course of the discussion was conceded.—This treaty has not been perhaps in every point, or in every instance, very strictly attended to; but, taken altogether, the success of the measures adopted by the select committee in that year have been ample and complete: not only the more gross acts of aggression and molestation which gave immediate occasion to those measures, have not been repeated, but the trade, to this day, enjoys a degree of freedom and security not exceeded at any previous period of its history.

The main point of solicitude, the defeat of the plan for the reduction of the number of the Hong merchants, and of the union together of the remainder into one body, termed a *Co-Hong*, was accomplished the very next year, as far as human prudence could secure its accomplishment, by an edict issued under the immediate authority of the Emperor himself, dispensing with that alteration, and expressly sanctioning the continuance of the existing system:—an edict, which if it had been obtained some months later, and through the instrumentality of the late embassy, would, by those who are competent to weigh its commercial importance, have hardly been thought too dearly purchased even by the whole expence of that mission.

It may be proper here to guard against seeming, however unintentionally, to exaggerate.—The compact in 1814 did not work miracles.—It neither corrected the natural disposition of the Chinese government to insult, and to molest, and to extort from foreigners; nor did it deprive them of any part of the power which they previously possessed of shewing it. That compact by no means contained all that was wished, although it did, all that was insisted upon: but even if it had; that man must be credulous and inexperienced indeed, who would place any very strong reliance upon a paper security of that nature, under such a despotism, and in some respects at least, faithless, government.—Still it was something: something unparalleled in the history of our commerce with China, to reduce the stern and haughty government of the province in which our trade is carried on, to put its seal to any compact at all. This concession was made with the utmost reluctance; the various ingenious devices by which it was endeavoured to be indirectly evaded, when it was found that it could be no longer directly refused, would add some amusing pages to the history of diplomacy. The moral effect, in concurrence no doubt with other influencing causes, is now, as already observed, a matter of experience and of history.

It may be asked, what it was that could have induced the viceroy of Canton to give way? Though this is a somewhat speculative question, it may in answer, be fairly conjectured, that it was because he found at length, that the English were in earnest, and then became sensible that he had pushed matters too far: and that in the event of their suspension of the trade being so long persevered in as to come to the knowledge of the court at Peking; that court however otherwise disposed to approve of and concur in his measures, would be a good deal embarrassed and disturbed by the consequences; so much so, that under such circumstances he might find it rather difficult to make out a satisfactory case for his justification.

To complete the history of these transactions, it still remains to be stated, that the defeated party among the Chinese, although they did not resort to any open acts of aggression after the termination of the discussions in 1814, continued for some time to endeavour to retrieve their lost ground by secret intrigues, and especially by endeavours to intimidate the individual who had negotiated the adjustment which had taken place, and who, having become shortly after the next in succession to the situation of president of the select committee, was the person upon whom it was foreseen the duty would most probably fall, of watching, and as far as possible, enforcing its execution.

The report of these intrigues naturally excited considerable alarm in England, amongst all persons interested in the trade; and serious apprehensions were entertained, (which however happily proved groundless,) that the provincial adjustment of our differences could not be maintained, and that consequently, no other resource remained for the preservation of the trade, on the desired footing, but a direct appeal to the court of Peking.—It is observed in the Narrative of the Embassy, that “the Court of Directors having contemplated, under these circumstances, the measure of an embassy to China, submitted their views on the subject to his Majesty’s ministers,” but that “The president of the Board of Control to whom their communications were addressed, suggested the expediency of deferring the adoption of any specific measures until further and more detailed information had been received from the committee of supercargoes; for although an appeal to the Imperial government might be recommended or resorted to by them, while suffering from actual oppression, it by no means followed that they would retain the same opinion, if measures of resistance, already pursued at Canton, should prove successful: in this reasoning the Directors concurred.” The actual postponement of this measure in consequence of the above advice was however a very short one.—The intrigues, which threatened a renewal of our differences with the Chinese government were not deve-

loped or suspected to exist, even at Canton, till the month of February in the year 1815—and yet we find, that “possessed of the requisite information, and supported by the renewed recommendations of their supercargoes, the chairman and deputy chairman of the Court of Directors, in a letter, dated the 28th of July, 1815, solicited the aid of his Majesty’s ministers to the proposed measure, and the appointment, by the Prince Regent, of some person of high rank, as his ambassador to the Emperor of China”—p. 41.

The measure of an embassy was therefore taken up at the moment when the alarm for the safety of the trade was at the highest, with a just and natural anxiety, unquestionably, to avert a danger of so serious a character, as that which seemed to be impending:—had the measure however been postponed for six months, it very probably would never have been adopted at all; for it would have become evident, from the entire abandonment on the part of the Chinese of any attempt to revive the past discussions, that the peculiar ground for attempting to re-open a diplomatic intercourse with the court of Peking, at that particular period, no longer existed, and that no other substantial grounds remained, that had not been almost equally in existence throughout the whole period that had elapsed since the first British embassy, while on the other hand, a great many new circumstances and events had come into operation, which were calculated, very much to discourage the attempt.

The writer of this paper felt so sensible how much the circumstances of the times had reduced the hopes, and augmented the risks attending such a mission, that although he still considered it as a fair experiment, and one worthy of the adoption of the British Company and nation, he declined making himself a party to any direct recommendation of it.—A paragraph containing such a recommendation was expunged from one of the public letters requiring his signature, at his express request—and transferred to another, which required only the signature of the president.

At the same time that he states this, nothing is further from his wish than to shift from himself any part of the responsibility for the measure, (which has been alledged, however unjustly, to have failed,) that really belongs to him. On the contrary, he most readily acknowledges that he was for a long period the most sanguine advocate for it; and that he had previously occupied himself, with honest intentions at least, in many fruitless attempts to recommend it to the consideration of the governing powers in this country.—But in his view of the subject, a mission to Peking had ever been a measure of conciliation and compliment—never one of expostulation and complaint—an undertaking surrounded with inherent difficulties quite sufficient to make it advisable and almost essential to select, if possible, the most appropriate time for its adoption. By all means to take advantage of the tide when it was favorable, but not causelessly to seek to stem it, when it was adverse.

The tide of court favour at Peking was certainly very strong against foreign connections of every kind, in the year 1816;—but although the writer of this, anticipating this unpropitious state of things, felt reluctant to concur in an active recommendation of the measure of an embassy, he is very far indeed from condemning its adoption, under the existing circumstances.

The period at which it was deemed expedient to have recourse to such a measure was selected wholly in consequence of the supposed necessity of the case, and by no means any otherwise of our own seeking. The danger to our commercial concerns in China was apparently imminent, and it was hardly possible for the court of directors or his Majesty’s ministers, with a due regard to the important interests at stake, to have hesitated to have recourse to this, the only remaining expedient in their power, for its removal.—The expence, though considerable, yet, compared with the object in view, was trifling; and although success, except within moderate limits, was felt to be nearly impossible, and even within those limits very uncertain; this is nothing more than might have been predicated beforehand, of a great proportion of the most approved measures of our public policy.

It may be permitted further to observe, without any reference to the individuals selected, that the principle upon which this embassy was constituted, was extremely judicious.—The appointment of a commission in which a nobleman was to preside, with two members of the select committee for his assessors, combined two very essential requisites upon the occasion, which it was impossible to find centred in any one individual, in an equal degree.—The present expedition was not only undertaken, like the former one, with the sole and express view of promoting and consolidating our local commercial interests at Canton; but it grew so entirely out of the measures which had been adopted by the Company’s authorities there, to that end, and was so especially designed to strengthen their hands, and to obtain, if possible, the emperor’s confirmation of the provincial adjustment which they had already obtained, that any scheme of an embassy which had not included persons who were locally, and in the fullest manner acquainted, both with what had been done, and with what was still required, would, however complete in other respects, have been obviously worse than useless.

It must really be supposed that those who, like the Reviewer, have questioned the propriety of this arrangement, had imagined that the embassy was sent out to rectify the mistakes of the select committee, to retrace their steps, and to adopt some altogether new plan, for the benefit of our commercial interests—but, if even this had been the case, it may be questioned whether an embassy, which however otherwise qualified, was wholly deficient in local knowledge, and an acquaintance with the manners, habits, character, and language of so singular a people as the Chinese, would have made much progress.

Even with respect to what has been called the *ceremonial branch* of the embassy, it is impossible, consistently with the facts, to contend, that persons who had just before been negotiating, on a footing of equality, precisely the same kind of treaty with the local government; who were known to have been entrusted with the entire local command over the whole of that trade which was the subject of negotiation; and, who had been acknowledged by the Chinese themselves, in one of their edicts, to be public officers entrusted with national affairs, were not competent assessors of the British ambassador, even in that branch of his public duty.

Nothing in fact can be more absurd or injudicious than any attempt to conceal, or keep out of sight, in our negotiation with the Chinese, that our objects are purely commercial, or to dissemble the real and intimate connection that must, in every case, subsist between the inferior, but permanent representation of the nation at Canton, and the more dignified, but only temporary, representation of it at Peking.

The Chinese do not really believe, though they so express themselves in the official language of their edicts, that ambassadors are sent to their court, with the sole view of enabling them to contemplate with more advantage the sublime virtues of their heavenly enthroned emperor—they are not quite such drivellers in politics. If, therefore, we are so unfortunate as to succeed in persuading them that commerce is *not* our object, *conquest* is the next thing that occurs to them; and as we are thus placed between the horns of a dilemma, we had better remain on that side which is the safest; and we shall probably find in this, as in most other instances, that the honest confession of the truth is, in the end, the wisest and most advantageous policy.

With respect to the instructions which were given for the guidance of the ambassador and of his colleagues in the commission, and upon which, as far as they are made public, in the official Narrative, it is, of course, fully open to the author to comment, the only point which he feels disposed to regret, is the omission to provide against that unfortunate difference of opinion, which arose in the progress of the undertaking, respecting the expediency of complying with the Chinese ceremony.

The facts respecting it were not very difficult of access.—The subject had been fully canvassed and discussed in the course of Lord Macartney's embassy.—His lordship's authority and example were both decidedly against compliance.—The result of the trial, which the Dutch ambassador soon after made of an opposite policy, was not such as to recommend the precedent.—The history of the circumstances of the rejection of the Russian embassy, in 1806, left little room to doubt that compliance with the ceremony would be most pertinaciously insisted upon.—Nevertheless, Mr. Barrow, the individual in this country, who, (besides being eminently distinguished by his talents in other respects) certainly stands first among those who are unconnected with the local interest of the trade, for information respecting China, and who was, of course, specially consulted on the occasion, strongly deprecated such compliance.

After all, it must be confessed, that much may be argued in favor of the safety and prudence of the policy, of leaving the matter to be decided on the spot, according to circumstances. The only evil of this was, that the necessity which was in consequence supposed to exist, of not altogether losing sight of the possible alternative of compliance, rendered it very difficult to assume such a tone with the Chinese, in announcing a refusal, as should as once convince them that all further discussion upon the business was useless—and the delay, which ensued in consequence, was fatal: for although the point was at length given up by the Chinese, or, at least, professed to be so, on the day before the intended audience, the tardiness of this concession compelled them to have recourse afterwards to a degree of indecorous and unexampled haste, which, as is well known, produced a crisis in the affairs of the embassy, which rendered that concession, even if it had been sincerely made, of no avail.

To return to the ambassador's instructions, as developed in the Narrative, they seem, in all other respects, to have been wise and statesman like.—The embassy was not undertaken with any special view toward the attainment of additional privileges, such as the opening of a new port for the extension of our commerce, or any other of the wild and visionary projects that have been sometimes attributed to it. These objects, however desirable in themselves, and however properly recommended to be kept in view by the ambassador, in the event of any favorable opening occurring for their attainment, it was felt, were too little, (upon any

rational grounds) to be calculated upon at that time, to justify the expensive experiment of a royal mission.—The experience of Lord Macartney's embassy, and indeed of all the embassies to the court of Peking, of which we possess any record; is adverse to such expectation. It is unquestionable, that the first embassy produced a considerable moral impression in our favor among the Chinese; and, that if it had been followed up by another, but less considerable mission, pursuing, with similar talents and judgement, a similar line of policy, it might have been attended with very important results.—The time for this was certainly, however, long gone by.—The Chinese had since seen our troops more than once landed on their shores; and our naval forces had, during successive years, hovered about their coasts, with no hostile intention it is true but in a way, which even the most unsuspicious nation might have considered in some degree questionable.

Under the influence of the impression which these unexplained proceedings must have made upon the Chinese, connected as it must have been with the vague and indistinct, but at the same time, probably, industriously magnified reports, they would occasionally receive of our wars and progresses in India, they really must have been a most weak, instead of a most sagacious people, if they were not to pause a great deal before they consented to give up any of their ancient restrictions upon foreign intercourse, which had any reference to the maintenance of their external or internal security.

But the object of the embassy under Lord Amherst was one of a much more rational and attainable nature. Its main purpose was—not to propose any innovation, but merely to secure and consolidate, and to restore in the event of its being found to have been again suspended, the ordinary commercial intercourse between the two countries. Nothing which actually occurred in the course of the embassy, forbids the supposition, that had this object not been, happily, already in substance accomplished previous to his lordship's arrival, it would still have been in his power to have entered into a negotiation upon it with the emperor's ministers, although a refusal to submit to the ceremony of prostration, under the circumstances in which it was demanded, might in every case, have prevented him from partaking of the pageantry of a public audience.

As matters stood when the embassy actually arrived on the coast of China, so much of what was of probable accomplishment, was already accomplished, that it was impossible to expect that much that was substantial still remained within its scope, beyond the moral influence and effect, which its general conduct and appearance at court, at Canton, and on its passage through the empire, might be able to produce.

One thing, at all events, was deemed to be deserving of paramount consideration. If it were found that no good could be done; at least, to take especial care to do no harm.—Not to lose any of the ground that the select committee had gained—not to frustrate the success of the line of policy they had adopted:—not, while studiously, and very properly, cultivating the spirit of amity and conciliation, as far as practicable, to suffer the embassy to be inveigled into any ill timed and injurious concession, which might exhibit to the Chinese the strange anomaly of a special royal commission, in appearance, less jealous upon points affecting the national honour and independence, than the humbler resident functionaries of the East-India Company.

This is of course meant, in appearance, as respects the notions of the Chinese. The Author cannot too often repeat his thorough conviction, a conviction founded on the advantage of a considerable personal intimacy, that no consideration on earth would have induced either of the distinguished individuals, with whom he had the honor of being associated on that occasion, to advocate or sanction any measure, which they believed to be hostile in its character and effects to the honor or interests of their country.—But the circumstances, which, in the opinion of the Author, gave to a ceremony, which was innocent and impious of itself, a very injurious tendency, were to be gathered only, from its interpretation, and the spirit in which it was demanded:—upon such a question, it was quite impossible for any person who was a stranger to the habits, manners, and language of the Chinese, from his own knowledge, to decide.—The majority of the commission did him the honor, in consequence, of deferring upon this point to his opinion; and the evils, which (if he judged rightly) would have been incurred by an opposite course, were thus avoided. He even flatters himself with confidence, that he may say more, and that he is entitled to assert that, taking together the direct and indirect effect of the late embassy, some considerable good has been accomplished by it.—Those, at least, who judge of events by their result, ought to accept the state of the trade at Canton, at this present time, as no mean evidence in its favor.

But, although the ulterior objects of the embassy, neither were, nor could have been attained, it is but justice to the subject to add, that had an opening for negotiation upon such points existed, every rational means had been provided to ensure success. To the diplomatic talents, disinterested zeal, and conciliating manners of the amiable nobleman who presided, and of the secretary of the legation who accompanied him,

from England, and who, in consequence of the absence of Mr. Elphinstone, became a member of the commission, nothing was wanting: and, putting out of the question at present the author of this note, there remained still, no less than five gentlemen in the suite of the embassy, whose extensive acquaintance of the language, and considerable local knowledge and experience, qualified them, not only to forward its objects as interpreters, but, even to aid its deliberations, if called upon, with their judgment and advice.

Whoever speaks of himself always engages in an invidious and difficult topic: but the writer of this note cannot here avoid observing, that it is somewhat hard upon him, that the Reviewer, (to whom its now time to revert) in the very same sentence, in which he does him the honor to allude to him, as a person "every way deserving of confidence and esteem," goes on to pronounce his nomination to the second place in the embassy (an appointment not very dissimilar to the one which had been held in the preceding embassy by his father) as the very climax of all the follies, which it is implied were committed in the plan and arrangement of the expedition by His Majesty's ministers and the East-India directors:—and this because, as has been already noticed, certain intriguing individuals among the Chinese, whose schemes against the commercial interests of this country he had, in the preceding year, been happily instrumental in arresting, had secretly denounced him as a dangerous person, and had endeavoured, but wholly without success, to implicate him with the Chinese government.

The fact, and the whole fact of this case, was as follows:—A paper, purporting to be a copy of a secret dispatch from the emperor to the viceroy of Canton, was privately communicated in the month of February, 1815, to the Select Committee, but never avowed or acknowledged in any public manner whatever by the government. In this paper, the emperor appears to acquaint the viceroy, that a certain individual, whom he names, had been secretly denounced to him as a person dangerous to his government, and against whom it was proper, in consequence, for the government to be on their guard:—and he concludes, by directing the viceroy to enquire into the fact, authorising him if it should prove true, to take such steps as the occasion might demand.—The viceroy soon after replied to the emperor, (a copy of which reply was the same private hand, transmitted to the Select Committee) and said, "I have enquired into the fact—it is not true—it is wholly unfounded; consequently, I have taken no step whatever in the business." The emperor then professes himself satisfied, and the affair is never heard of more.

No person who has the most distant idea of the spirit of intriguing among the Chinese, the system of *espionage* that is kept up, and hanging over all the officers of the government, and the allegations and retractions that are continually passing amongst them, would ever think of building any opinion or argument whatever upon such a basis. The charge was made secretly—in a corner—never avowed—never acted upon, in any way whatsoever.—It is true, that the interval between the first communication of the emperor's dispatch, and that of the viceroy's reply, was one of the some anxiety, because it was impossible to predict with certainty what course would be pursued; and it was unquestionably among the chances, that the viceroy of Canton might have been rash enough to have acted upon the emperor's dispatch, in a way that would, possibly, have suspended the trade, much more permanently and effectually than the most oppressive of his acts of the preceding seasons.—But it seems, he did not feel it advisable to embark on such a "sea of troubles,"—and on that account among others, probably, disposed of the business in the way already related.

In the course of a few months after this intrigue had thus notably failed, the individual, who was the object of it, succeeded to the office of President of the Select Committee, was consequently engaged in much personal and official correspondence with the officers of the government, and he finally announced to them officially his nomination as a member of the expected embassy.—Not a word, not an insinuation of objection escaped from any of those authorities.—All was acquiescence and approbation; until, some months after, the question of the *Ko tou* was agitated, and came into serious discussion.—The Chinese government, though they never in the most distant manner alluded to the previous correspondence, then discovered, or affected to discover, that this individual was the adviser of non-compliance.—They had accordingly again recourse, as they invariably had done in every case of the kind, to attempts at intimidation—and again failed.

After all; the embassy was rejected, (as it is well known) not on account of the ceremony, (for the mandarins expressly said, "if you will consent to appear at the audience, you may adhere to your own ceremony") but in consequence, as already adverted to, of the mismanagement of the mandarins, and the emperor's own haste and caprice—all which is afterwards, in a public Imperial Edict, fully and expressly acknowledged! The contents of this singular document are ably summed up by Dr. Morrison, in his late Memoir, in the following paragraph:—

"Six days after this violent act, the emperor published one of his penitentiary papers, in which he said, he (*puh-jin*) could not bear the

idea of our having come so far, and of being dismissed in the way we had been.—He had, he said, now found out what he did not know when he took the harsh resolution, viz. that the ambassador had travelled all night; had not been at his own apartments; nor had with him his court dress; 'had I known these circumstances' said the emperor, 'I would have changed the day of audience.' He then proceeded in the same official document to reflect in the strongest terms on the princes and courtiers, especially the duke; who were called to his presence that morning, to all whom the truth was known, but to mention which none would step forward. He blamed the selfish system which each seemed to have adopted, when they sat before him, and said to themselves, 'the affair does not concern me.' Thus, added he, 'they ruined the affair.' The duke he degraded, by depriving him of the high situation he held as president of the foreign board: *Moo* and *Soo*, presidents of the boards of rites and works, were also removed: *Kwang* was deprived of his situation as salt commissioner, and reduced to the low rank of a gold button. He was granted the indulgence of wearing his former one, whilst with the embassy. He wrote also to the viceroys of the provinces, through which the embassy had to pass on its way to Canton, to give orders to all connected with it to treat it with civility and respect. *Yin* gave it as his opinion, that they would have recalled it, but for what they conceived the very undignified appearance of reversing the imperial decree."—*Pamphleteer*, No. 29, p. 181.

From this period to the final departure of the embassy, nothing occurred to interrupt the perfect harmony which was very soon re-established between the several individuals of the embassy, and the officers of the Chinese government. The last public meeting between the *Chin-chai*, the emperor's representative, and the ambassador, is thus described by Mr. Ellis:—

"13th of January.—A breakfast was given by Sir George Staunton and the Factory to the *Chin-chai*, and the ambassador. Although this was the first European entertainment *Kwang* had ever witnessed, his manner and conduct were perfectly unembarrassed, easy, affable and cheerful; he seemed to feel himself among friends; and lost no opportunity of shewing attention to those within his reach."

Thus much the author of this Note has really felt himself called upon to state upon this ungrateful subject, in justification of those who did him the honor to think him worthy to be employed on the public service, upon that occasion.—It was an employment, which, if he had not thought his acceptance of it might have enabled him to render some service to his country, he had certainly some personal reasons for wishing to decline.

There were unluckily some equivocal circumstances in the constitution of the embassy itself, in respect to the precedence of its members, which, with almost any other individuals besides those with whom he actually became associated, might have been productive of unpleasant differences. Indeed, it would have been absolutely impossible for him to have joined the embassy at all, consistently with what was due to the public situation he at the same time held and retained, of President of the Select Committee, if the ambassador himself had not, in the handsomest manner, removed, as far as possible, every doubt upon the subject, by declaring him to be, according to his construction of the intentions of his Majesty's government, not only the second member of the embassy, but likewise his eventual successor, to the first place in the commission.

The appointment, in his particular case, while it necessarily exposed him to some expense, was unattended by emolument:—And the situation in which it was not difficult to foresee, his opinions upon the question of the ceremony were likely to place him, of feeling it his duty to give advice in opposition to the wishes and almost the demands, of an arbitrary and capricious despot in the midst of his court, was one which many persons might have considered, not in itself very enviable.

The fact is, that the knowledge of the language, customs, and institutions of the country, which it is the present policy of the East-India Company to encourage to the utmost of their power among their servants in China, a policy, the wisdom of which in all similar situations in other countries, seems to be universally recognised, must render the individuals, who possess these acquirements, (however it may conciliate towards them the personal esteem and regard of the natives in general) in some degree obnoxious, (that is, objects of suspicion) in the eyes of those officers of the government, whose abuses and mal-practices they had been, or may at some time or other be, instrumental in repressing.

The Chinese government has always openly set its face against the acquisition of the language of the country by foreigners. It expressly forbids the natives instructing them in it. It has more than once seized the types, and imprisoned the native type-setters, who were employed by the East-India Company, at Macao, in preparing for the press, the Dictionaries and other valuable works, which have been composed for the aid of the student of the Chinese language, by the Rev. Dr. Morrison. Still the East-India Company perseveres in giving encouragement

to the acquisition of this suspected and dangerous talent. A different course might certainly have been adopted. If not a very wise, it would, at least, have been a consistent policy, to have endeavoured to conciliate the Chinese government, by wholly, and at once, abandoning all such views and prohibiting, and instead of continuing to encourage, the prosecution of these studies.—It would save their servants a great deal of anxious toil, in the first instance; and, as it should now seem, some obloquy afterwards.—But it would be no less cruel and unjust towards the individuals themselves, than absurd and inconsistent in itself, first to stimulate them to exert every nerve in the acquisition of this very peculiar and difficult branch of knowledge; and then, the moment that it is called into action in their service, and produces its natural and unavoidable consequences, to turn round on them and say, it does not signify how much you may be deserving of our esteem and confidence, you are considered by the Chinese, or at least by some of them, as dangerous persons, and therefore it would be the height of folly any longer to employ you.

To the honor of the East-India Company it must be admitted, that, for the last thirty or forty years at least, this has not been their policy; but it is certainly appears to be the policy which the Reviewer, and those who think with him, would advocate. Unless indeed, they meant to go further, and to recommend that we should altogether disarm the jealousy of the Chinese, and entirely renounce all that officious curiosity about their language and institutions, which we now find, gives them so much umbrage and uneasiness. This would seem to be implied by the wish that is expressed, when it is said, that we should "appear purely in the character of merchants, and throw off that mixed and suspicious character, which we now think so imposing."—We might then indeed, with perfect consistency, abandon all such ungrateful pursuits: the jargon of Canton would be a medium quite sufficient for the carrying on of such traffic, as the unchecked avarice and oppression of the local government might still leave unextinguished. With the mandarins and state officers of this province, we should, happily, under such circumstances have nothing to do. To question in any case their interpretation of the laws, or mode of executing them, however arbitrary and tyrannical they might seem, according to our notions and feelings, would be liable, as we have seen, to the construction of engaging in a political quarrel; and from all such, while we appeared purely in the character of merchants, we should of course religiously abstain. The order of the day at Canton, whatever it might be, would be easily made known to the English and to other foreigners by the Hong merchants, through the medium of the Canton jargon, and nothing further would remain for them to do, but to make their thankful prostrations, and submit in silence.

The example of the Americans, might be here, as it has been in other instances, quoted for our guidance.—They, good easy people, do not trouble themselves much about the Chinese language.—The Hong merchants do their business extremely well, and they want no hing more.—They, therefore, like the merchants and crews of the country ships, (as the Reviewer observes, p. 444, calling it a very instructive fact) are quite exonerated by the justice of the Chinese from the charges levelled against the servants of the Company, of being "breeders of disorders" and "makers of disturbances." To be sure; if it were not for these occasional disorders and disturbances; if the servants of the Company did not contend now and then, upon points of vital importance, even with the high authorities of the government itself, and with such means as they possess; if in short, they did not employ their knowledge of the language of the country in sedulously watching and defending the outworks of the trade; it is just possible, that neither the Americans nor the country traders, any more than the Company themselves, would continue to enjoy their present comfortable quarters within the citadel.—But all is well as it is—and they look no further.

To be serious; it seems almost unaccountable, that this subject should have been taken up by the Reviewer in the manner it has been. It is not a question of whig or toby politics: it is not a personal one; for the Reviewer disclaims, and no doubt most sincerely, all personalities.—indeed he has said handsome things of the parties concerned, for which personally, they cannot but feel obliged to him.

The clue to this mystery is probably to be found in the following short paragraph. "Let the Chinese trade, as soon as good faith and the laws will permit, be made free, and we have no doubt whatever, either of its stability or its increase." p. 445.

To bring about this result, nothing, no doubt, can be more conducive than to prove that whatever is, is wrong. And, at this point, the Reviewer has certainly laboured most indefatigably throughout the whole of the article. The writer of this note is at the same time perfectly willing to believe, that the Reviewer, relying too confidently upon his authorities, gave entire credence himself, to the statement he has made; which, it must be confessed, only needs to be well founded, to constitute a most grave case against the Company, and their servants in China; such as it would be even meritorious, as much as possible, to expose.

The writer of this note has heard it rumoured that the Reviewer, in this instance, is a gentleman, (Mr Crawford) whom he has had the honor of personally knowing; an individual of much respectability, and of considerable knowledge in some branches of Asiatic commerce.—However this may be, nothing can be further from his wish than to give pain, in any thing that may have fallen from him in this reply, to any one. But the article itself is public property; and the charges that have been so freely made, being felt to be unfounded, must be as freely repelled. For the reasons, which have been already stated, at the commencement of this note, it was not at first thought necessary to notice these charges at all; and the whole question seeming as it were to have gone by, it is probable that the author never would have undertaken to do so, had not the present publication, not only afforded him a fair opportunity for introducing the subject, but in fact almost compelled him to do so, in illustration of other questions, in which it is intimately connected.

The strictly commercial part of the Reviewer's remarks, the author has not here undertaken to investigate, though he hopes he has in some measure, and in anticipation, answered them in another place.—But the political part of the question, he has certainly examined very fully in this note, more fully perhaps than was necessary; but he will be forgiven for being somewhat anxious, since he has taken up the pen, not to lay it down again, without doing his utmost to place transactions, in which he has himself had so large share, in a right light with the public.

It has not certainly been at any time the wish either of himself, or of those who think with him on these subjects, to stifle a fair discussion and enquiry. All that is desired is, that those upon whom the difficult task of dealing with the Chinese has fallen, may not be hastily condemned unheard, because the whole of their case cannot always, consistently with their public duty, or with the nature of things, be at once laid open to every bye-stander: or because such bye-standers, and still more so, persons living at a distance of fifteen thousand miles from the scene of action, are liable to take up superficial notions, which a deeper insight into things, would have shewn to have had no foundation. Prejudications of this kind are of little comparative consequence to the individuals themselves, when their conduct has been approved of by all those tribunals to which it is officially amenable: though it is still undoubtedly their honest ambition, to stand clear also before the tribunal of the public, and even to reap the meed of praise itself, when it has been fairly earned. But it is by leading the public, upon such erroneous assumptions, to undervalue the benefits of the system as it is, that these misrepresentations are chiefly calculated to do mischief. We can be hardly expected to be very nice and scrupulous about innovations on a system, which we are already led to believe, is so very bad, that almost any change in it, must prove a change for the better.

The writer of this note cannot finally dismiss the subject without endeavouring also to do justice to the memory of an amiable and respected friend of his, now no more, whose conduct while President of the Select Committee, in recommending the expedition which was intended to occupy the island of Macao, is stated to have been one of the most notable of the instances of the bad policy, of which the supercargoes are alleged to have been so often the authors.

It is a curious fact, that although that gentleman was afterwards most seriously visited for his conduct upon the occasion of that expedition, and that the advice he was supposed to have given, was one of the principal charges against him, the good or bad policy of the advice he actually *did* give is a problem which never has been, nor can be solved: for his advice, such as it was, was not taken.

The essential condition which he annexed to the advice, or rather to the opinion which he gave in favour of the measure, under the then existing idea that there was not a moment to be lost in anticipating the similar design of France, was the acquisition of the authoritative sanction of the Government of Goa, to which that of Macao was subordinate, and this, by some unaccountable accident, was omitted to be obtained, or, at least, was not received in China, till it was too far to have any effect. When it *did* arrive, all the parties were already too far committed—the intended friendly measure had assumed the character of an hostile one—the Chinese had been appealed to—and the humiliating necessity to which we were, in consequence, ultimately reduced, of evacuating the island, in order to recover our trade, is notorious.

Although, therefore, the supercargoes were certainly more zealous than discreet, as respected their own interests, in anticipating enquiries respecting the probable reception of the expedition, nothing can be more unjust than to throw upon them the whole weight of the responsibility, either for its original adoption, or for its subsequent failure.—It was notoriously in preparation in India, some time before their communication upon it was received there—and had that communication been fully and properly acted upon, there are very strong rational grounds for believing, as already stated, that the result would have been extremely different.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

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Distress in Ireland.

As authentic statements of the misery which now prevails in some parts of Ireland, have reached India, and as it is ascertained that some districts, from an almost total failure of the last year's crop, are actually in a state of famine, it is earnestly hoped that the British Residents and other inhabitants of this Country, will come forward with their aid for the purpose of mitigating (so far as pecuniary aid can mitigate) the sufferings of our fellow-creatures.

Experience has shown that a year of such afflicting distress as has been prevalent is always followed by scarcity and generally with disease, it becomes desirable to raise such a fund here as may tend to alleviate the distresses of those who may survive the famine.

The following Gentlemen have agreed to form themselves into a Committee for the purpose of promoting this work of humanity, and it is hoped that many whose exertions may be useful to the cause will allow their names to be added:—

The Committee is at present composed of

SIR FRANCIS McNAGHTEN.

COL. WM. CASEMENT, C. B.	JOHN PALMER, Esq.
D. CLARK, Esq.	GEORGE MACKILLOP, Esq.
REV. J. PARSON.	CAPTAIN T. MACAN.
GEORGE BALLARD, Esq.	J. O. B. TANDY, Esq.
ROBERT MCCLINTOCK, Esq.	BROWNE ROBERTS, Esq.
JAMES COLVIN, Esq.	BENJAMIN FERGUSON, Esq.
EDWARD BRIGHTMAN, Esq.	

WHO HAVE RESOLVED, AS FOLLOWS:

- 1st.—That Subscriptions be solicited generally from all classes of Society throughout this Establishment.
- 2d.—That the proceedings be communicated by the Committee to all the Civil and Military Stations, with an intimation that Donations of ever so small an amount will be acceptable and gratefully received.
- 3d.—That the several Houses of Agency and Banks in Calcutta be requested to receive the Contributions.
- 4th.—That the proceedings in general be inserted in all the Calcutta Papers, and that lists of Contributions be also published in them, from time to time.
- 5th.—That a Meeting of the Inhabitants of Calcutta at the Town Hall, be earnestly solicited on Wednesday next, the 2d proximo, at the hour of one o'clock, in order that the best Plan be fixed on for the purpose of giving effect to the wishes of the Subscribers.

Calcutta, September 26, 1822.

Anecdote.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

I have often heard it affirmed that you are a Son of Old Neptune; so, taking the fact for granted, I am confident I shall find a corner in the JOURNAL for the insertion of the following Anecdote which regards a British Tar.

In the year 1810, the DOVER Frigate, while lying in Dock at Sulkea, had the misfortune to lose one of her crew by the name of ISAAC SOUTHERALL; since that period the poor fellow's ashes have rested in peace, unnoticed and unknown, except to a few.—A day or so ago a Seaman of the LOTUS made his appearance before a respectable inhabitant of the above place, to ascertain the resting place of his late shipmate, that he might place a stone which he had brought out from England in his chest, over his Grave.

Here is an act worthy of a British Sailor—of one of Old England's best defenders: These are the deeds which render us proud of our country and our home.

A SEAMAN'S FRIEND.

Proposed Performances.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

I am happy to see my hasty *hint* with respect to suggesting Plays for the Benefit of the unfortunate Irish has been followed up by another Correspondent in this day's JOURNAL.

I hope and trust that A CONSTANT VISITOR's proposal will meet with consideration from the Amateurs; so, that if nothing still more attractive occurs, these two pieces may be performed. Individually I have only one reason for differing with A CONSTANT VISITOR in his choice, which is, that neither "THE REVENGE," nor "IS HE JEALOUS" will afford the public the pleasure of seeing our excellent TOTTERTON to advantage. I should think that piece preferable which would engage all the Chowringhee talent.

I agree with A CONSTANT VISITOR, that it would have been advisable to have had the play before the DOORGA POOJA holidays; but unfortunately there is (I believe) a regulation amongst the Proprietors, that render any of their meetings of no effect that have not been advertized a certain time in the GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

Considering this subject in another point of view, I do not think the temporary delay of the Meeting of Proprietors will be of any detriment to this charitable cause, for it strikes me that the Amateurs will have an opportunity to suggest a Play in the interim, and it is much better that this proceeding should originate with the Amateurs; without whose assistance the efforts of the Proprietors and Managers combined would be of no avail.

If the PROPRIETORS' APPEAL to the public some time ago, on their distresses, was crowned with such success, surely the cries of thousands of our starving countrymen will be a DOUBLE APPEAL to every genuine, to every good, in short to every BRITISH feeling of our nature.

Let not our Dramatic Friends therefore be disheartened from their undertaking, by the apathy that seems to pervade the Public at large; and though our Amateurs cannot offer the attractions to which you allude this morning, of *venison, turtle &c.* yet they can amply remedy this, by giving us the more noble aliment of food for the mind.

Let our Theatricalists bear in mind the liberal contributions made by the Chowringhee Theatre to the subscription sent from this country for the wounded sufferers of Waterloo, and let them reflect that the present is a case of much greater hardship, and there is therefore a much greater call in the present instance than there was then. Let the apathy of the Public stimulate them to greater efforts.

I have heard it stated that any contributions from this country will arrive too late to relieve the distresses of Ireland. I wish all of that opinion would look a little deeper into the subject before they make it a reason for withholding their assistance. Let them even read attentively the two articles on this subject from the MADRAS COURIER. I cannot refrain from extracting a passage from one of them: "We need not repeat that the lives of thousands of our fellow creatures depend on prompt exertions, or that the causes of distress are of such a nature that it will be the work of YEARS AND NOT OF WEEKS to remove."

Others suggest that the Government at Home will have relieved them before we can be of any assistance. Alas! the Government in its present distressed state is not able to do much for the sister country. There is too much poverty in England to admit of its giving adequate relief.

I shall conclude this with a remark taken from your Correspondent HUMANITAS, who recommends every one to give something, however small: "Be it remembered, that that little which alone can be spared, may save the life of one fellow creature, or enable an afflicted mother to snatch from the jaws of death her infant which has famished for a week!"

I do sincerely hope that "this City of Palaces" will redeem its good name, and that one may say in the words of CICERO "Omnes omnium caritates patria una complexa est."

Sept. 27, 1822.

THEATRICUS.

A Prisoner's Reply.

SIR,

To the Editor of the Journal.

I am one of those unfortunates, in whose cause the pen of "A CHRISTIAN" has so humanely and eloquently spoken; and whose letters (thanks to that benevolent feeling which prompts you to grant the Prisoners in the Jail the daily perusal of your Paper free from charge) I have had an opportunity of seeing. Much as A CHRISTIAN is to be praised for his philanthropic exertions in the cause of imprisonment: yet, in his Letter of Monday last, he concludes with an Eulogy upon the Gaoler, to which he is not entitled; I mean as regards his public character as Gaoler; I am confident that A CHRISTIAN speaks of him as he thinks from his personal knowledge he is deserving, but "*man should be judged by his actions not his words.*" I have, Mr. Editor, been a prisoner for some time, and have had daily opportunities of judging of the Gaoler's Humanity and Benevolence, and although the kindness of a Friend has placed me beyond the sphere in which this person's compassion for his unfortunate inmates could be shewn, yet I too well know how that compassion might have been exercised, in relieving the want of my fellow-prisoners. I also know, that when that compassion has been sued for by many distressed, but respectable individuals, it has not been granted. A Gaoler, from various charitable sources, has it in his power to do much good; he is the organ of relief to the distressed, he can feed the hungry, and he can clothe the naked; having this power within his reach, and failing to exercise it, when fit objects present themselves, he surely cannot merit so sweeping a commendation as the benevolent writer I have alluded to, has from the best of motives given him. I repeat, I speak of the Gaoler acting in his public capacity only; how far his private and moral character is concerned I know not, my observations being confined within the walls of the Prison, and where I can truly say that kindness and benevolence when extended have ever met the return of heartfelt gratitude.

A PRISONER.

To Yacoo Tenson

Ha, ha, ha, poor "YACOO Tenson," why what a devil of a *sierava* thou hast brought upon thy devoted head! Could you not imagine that the spirit of retaliation had its seat of government in the breast of a woman? and could you suppose for an instant that a woman never would exert that spirit? Yacoo, Yacoo! I find that thou art but a lad, a boy in the field of knowledge; listen unto me, and if thou art not above receiving instruction, here, take what I have to give.

Why, Yacoo, what in the name of all that's good, possessed you to declare hostility against the Sex, and on such a score as that which you gave out as your motive? What, stop a woman's tongue! by Jove, I should soon think of stopping her eating, drinking, or any other natural propensity she might have, as to think of stopping a woman's tongue and her inclination to pry into the secrets of others. What the deuce do you think they live on? Do you suppose their appetites are similar to ours, and that they can stuff solids and Hodgson as you or I can? not a bit, I assure you; Tea and Scandal is all they wish for, and enough in all conscience they get; if you doubt it, ask Grigg and Pengelly on the first count, and all the world on the second. But you laid hold on the Spinsters, and careless of consequences (which perhaps had you been general in your remarks, would not have excited individual opposition towards you,) you particularized three or four of that forlorn condition of creatures, so pointedly, that I am from that circumstance alone borne out in the idea that you are known to the Spinster who does herself the pleasure of answering you in to-day's JOURNAL. Take heed, Yacoo! for thou treadest on slippery ground, and slippery are the animals you have to deal with. I do not admit the right of any woman or man to interfere with the domestic concerns of another, and even the deference which I should ever and always pay to parental authority, would not serve to prevent me staying in its first progress any Espionage which I conceived intrusive, and

as intolerant to myself, as it to ought to be beneath the character of an honorable man or a woman gifted with any pretensions to decency. Such conduct is every thing that is bad, contemptible, and base; in no way capable of attaining a desirable object. It is culpable enough for a married woman to enquire into the affairs of others, as they ought to be minding those of their own family, so much fastidiousness ought not to be expected from that class of the community as from those who have never "*waxed their power.*" In a Spinster such a predilection to know all about their neighbours, is extremely reprehensible. She cannot adduce any shadow of excuse for throwing off all maiden bashfulness, all delicacy which ought to be her pride, as her only grace is that innocence which suffers from the contaminating breath of impurity, and which once lost can never be regained; But climate, I understand, changes the mind as well as constitution; if this be true, lamentable indeed is the truth.

Some few years ago, I took up my habitation in No. 22, Writers Buildings, and after necessary collegiate instruction was sent to a Mufussil Station; at this place, when I had looked about me, I thought it would be better, as I was "Solus," that I should be also "Cum Sola." On that hint I spake; although a Bachelor I have been favoured with a few of the chubbiest little rogues you would wish to see; they always address me by the endearing epithet "Bar," and I really and truly believe I deserve the appellation. I have a house large enough to hold my present Establishment; and a larger one, if Heaven so wills it; though on this score I am by no means anxious, as I ever make it a rule to apportion my ends to my means; a spare room is set apart for a friend (a Bachelor of course); attached to this is a Hookah, also a Buggy and Horse. I occasionally frequent the Theatre, and patronize Mr. Gunter's Assemblies. I read the JOURNAL, and look at the BULL; I seldom take the air on the Course, fearing to be run over either by insolent Coachmen, Gentlemen would-be Drivers, or Tailor-like Equestrians. I have contracted divers old fashioned notions about propriety of speech and demeanour, on which account I am set down on the list of Fogeos. This classification does not distress me; my Drafts on my Agents are never dishonored, the natural consequence of temperate hospitality. My shoulder is proudly free from the withering touch of a Bailiff, and I fear not to enter the Shop of any Tradesman, and look him in the face. My table is often surrounded by a few friends, whose habits, temper, and pursuits are similar to my own. My politics, from not being High Tory are probably d——d as being detestably Radical; bigots in politics are as bad as bigots in religion, they acknowledge no worship but their own. Scandal, backbiting, and ill-humored reflections and comparisons are never heard, as no inclination exists for their indulgence. I take the world as I find it; all my endeavours are, to live on equitable and friendly terms with my neighbours and acquaintances, to do as I would I should be done by; should therefore any persons of whatsoever degree think more is to be gained by a personal inspection or from the reports of others, they must not be annoyed if they see and hear what they have no business to enquire after. The married part of the female community can acquire no knowledge of the Government of a Family, as my system would not be found to their liking. The Spinsters may save themselves the trouble, if any thing but curiosity be their motive, as I have thus (as above) bespoke my mode of living. I do not advocate the manner, as perhaps strictly speaking it is not correct; I adopted it to save myself a world of trouble, and to prevent my being made the sport, (and probable subsequent rejection for a more eligible Suitor,) of any Girl in Christendom, or Heathenland.

To conclude, I coincide with "YACOO Tenson," that manners ought to make the woman, as well as the man. Delicacy is not a plant of Eastern growth, nor is it one which will thrive by being transplanted. How much ought therefore the young Lady who takes up her residence in India, to cultivate with unceasing assiduity, this best of qualifications, which makes her admired by the world, and be loved by her friends,

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

Barrackpore, Sept. 10, 1832,

TYKE,

Burping Alibe.

SIR, To the Editor of the Madras Courier.

If you can find a corner in your next Paper, you will much oblige an Old Subscriber by inserting the enclosed.

30th August, 1822.

An extraordinary event took place some years ago, on the first appearance of the Epidemic at Madras, the circumstances connected with which are worth while communicating:—It was in the month of October 1818, that Government were pleased to appoint Medical Officers to be stationed at different places within the precincts of the Presidency, for the purpose of affording immediate aid to the Sick—A poor man, of the Roman Catholic persuasion, fell a victim to the Cholera in one of the Tents that were pitched in Town near the Dispensary—Doctor P—who attended upon him called on a Minister of that Church to request him to bury the man for charity to which the Priest assented; the Doctor then returned to his duty, but being fatigued through incessant labour during the preceding nights, fell asleep in one of the Tents and rolled himself up to his head with a blanket for fear of the cold season; at this interval the corpse of the poor man was unexpectedly removed by some Portuguese people before the Minister could reach the place, who on his arrival there found a body laid up in a Tent (which was the fatigued Doctor) and under the idea of its being the dead one, proceeded with the usual ceremonies, and whilst coming to that part in the sprinkling of Holy Water, up started the Doctor with great consternation, which alarmed the Reverend Gentleman to such a pitch as compelled him to pull up his gown and take to heels with all his suite as fast as ever they could, leaving the object of the resurrection behind.

Madras, 30th. Aug. 1822.

JACOB TRUTH.

Madras Papers.

Madras Courier, Sept. 6.—We have been obligingly favoured with an abstract of whatever Public Events were the conversation of the day in England from the 20th of April to the 14th of May—from which we glean the following information, which we doubt not will be interesting although many of the topics have been touched upon before.

Governor General.—Mr. Canning is expected to leave England in September in a Frigate, to succeed the Marquis of Hastings, as Governor General. The Marquis is expected to proceed to Vienna overland, to be employed in a diplomatic capacity—His Majesty will proceed to Paris this Summer.—It is also rumoured that Louis XVIII. will appoint his Coronation at the same time.—The King will then proceed to Vienna—some say he will marry Maria Louisa, other say the Princess of Denmark, who arrived in London (accompanied by her brother the Crown Prince) May 12.

Tax on Property.—Petitions are preparing to Parliament, praying that a Tax may be levied on the Property and Income of British subjects residing in Foreign countries.

The Greeks.—The General Assembly of the Greeks met at Corinth, when it was determined to send Ambassadors to Austria, Russia, England and France.—The Colours of the nation were also fixed—the Greek Flag is to be Black, Red and White Horizontally—bearing on one side the figure of Minerva, on the other a Phoenix.

Poland.—The National spirit in Poland is showing itself.—The Emperor of Russia has consequently addressed a Circular to the Poles in which promises and menaces are pretty equally mingled.

Constitution for Hanover.—Count Munster is now in London arranging a Constitution for Hanover.—The Prussians begin to think that their own Constitution so long promised but still withheld, might be also referred to a Committee.

Exchange between England and France.—It will be recollected that in former Papers we have noticed the fall of the Exchange between England and France—by subsequent accounts we find that this continued, and that on the 19th of May the Exchange was below par and had been so for some days—the exportation of Silver from England had consequently again commenced, on the precious metals were in great request. Silver had advanced to 5s. and dollars to 4. 11.—If the foreign Exchanges continue to fall an effect will soon be produced on the exchange with India.

A Portsmouth Paper of the 1st of May says, “no Ship has yet been ordered to fit to take the Right Honorable GEORGE CANNING to India. The Active Frigate is waiting for a fair wind with the Right Honorable the EARL of HUNTINGDON on board to sail for Dominica.”

Madras Gazette, September 12 1822.—The Honorable the Governor was at Rajahmundry on the 4th instant.

On Saturday morning last the Colours of the Fort were hoisted half mast, and Sixteen Minute Guns were fired from the Fort Battery, on the melancholy occasion of the Demise of the Shidee wife of the Prince Azem Jah Bahadur, brother of his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic.

The Ship NEPTUNE, Captain Edwards from Batavia the 4th and Benecolen the 10th ultimo, arrived in the Roads yesterday.

The Ship ZENOBIA, Captain Peick, from Bourdeaux the 29th of April and Pondicherry the 10th instant, anchored in the Roads yesterday.

Passengers by the Lady Kennaway from Calcutta:—Mrs. Butler, Miss C. Mitchell, and Master G. Mitchell.

Passengers by the Earl Kellie from Benecolen:—Mr. G. Fanthome, and Mr. Guy.

The DUKE OF LANCASTER, Captain Davis, is expected to sail in prosecution of her voyage to England immediately.

The Packets by the LADY KENNAWAY for the Cape of Good Hope and England are advertised to be finally closed on Saturday at 1 P. M.

His Majesty's Ship TEES and Schooner Tender COCHIN, have sailed since our last report.

Distress in Ireland.

We went this forenoon to the Town Hall in hopes of being able to give our readers a general outline of the proceedings of the meeting convened there at 11 o'clock, for the purpose of taking into consideration the distressed state of the lower orders of the Irish throughout many parts of that portion of the United Kingdom. The meeting was not a numerous one, and we felt rather surprised at seeing so very few Irishmen present at it. We have no doubt, however, although prevented by accident, illness, or the shortness of the notice, from attending at the Town Hall, that they will exert themselves in private, and use all their influence in prevailing upon those who can afford it to spare something out of their abundance to the forlorn thousands who pine for food and bide the pelting of the pitiless storm of the bitterest adversity in their native land. Certain resolutions were entered into at the meeting, well calculated to promote the object in view; they are too voluminous to admit of being published in our number of to-day; nor do we like to allude more particularly to them, for fear of its being said, that we garbled the proceedings. The subscription intended to be commenced is to be of that comprehensive nature that every one may join in it. We are aware that many warm-hearted persons, on occasion of subscribing to a great public charity, are sometimes kept back from a mistaken notion, that such small sums as their means permit them to bring forward, appear paltry compared with the amount subscribed by their wealthier neighbours. He who can only afford a Goldmohr, is ashamed to enter his donation immediately under his who has put down four or five hundred Rupees. Let such diffident persons bear in mind, that it is not the numerical amount of alms that does honor to him who contributes them, but the proportion which they bear to his means, and the spirit with which they are given. It is a soothing reflexion, then, for the poor man to know, that even he has it in his power to succour human misery. Out of the vast heap in the treasury of the temple in Jerusalem, all that is on record on earth, if not in Heaven, is a tiny mite thrown in by a poor widow. Several men of wealth and substance no doubt had added substantially to the heap, but the widow's mite alone is remembered. We hope, then, that the intention of the meeting will be successful, and that all ranks will come forward and endeavour, under Providence, to stay that plague of famine and disease which is preying upon the vitals of that land whose inhabitants are proverbially famed for the best qualities that adorn human nature. Perhaps many may be of opinion, that any succours raised in this country cannot reach the scene of misery and devastation in sufficient time to be of use. We are convinced, if they seriously examine the subject for a moment, that they will be of a different way of thinking. The distress, it appears, as far as we can learn from the public papers and private letters received by Irish Gentlemen here, was most prevalent at the period of the year when the inhabitants should have been employed in cultivating the ground for a new crop. Instead, however, of possessing the necessary quantity of seed for sowing the land in the months of April and May, the peasants were in absolute want of daily food, and, horrible to add, were dying along highways, in ditches, and under hedges and dykes, from sheer want of sustenance and shelter, or from typhus fever induced by famine! The preceding autumn had been unusually wet, and whole districts were overflowed in consequence; this had proved particularly hurtful to the potatoes, which, it will be remembered, are generally left in the ground till the end of autumn. Here, then, we have no ideal picture of misery—it is all real, and terribly true. The subscriptions already raised in England, we trust will enable the thousands who stand in need of relief to get through the winter, the beautiful sum which we confidently anticipate will be realised through out India, will arrive next spring just in time to enable the peasant to put his bit of land in proper train for sowing a plentiful crop for the next season. British journeymen in the East have always been remarkable for their philanthropy, even to foreigners and aliens, and sure we are that they will maintain their character for kind hearts and open hands, now that their brethren in Erin are groaning under the most appalling and complicated afflictions.—*India Gazette.*

Lines.

TO MY LYRE IN INDIA.

Alas, to wake again thy native chime
 No mountain-stream with gladsome sound is here,
 Throughout this languid, silent, sultry clime,
 Nor rural mirth nor song delight the ear;
 No Lark's glad notes are heard the morn to cheer
 No blackbird sings the evening to repose,
 The night's wild howl, the day-scene still and drear,
 Are all in union with the Exile's woes.

OSCAR.

Sonnet.

This morn a dream that seem'd the very truth
 Came sudden like the dark cloud's light'ning-blaze,
 In all the charms of innocence and youth
 Appear'd the maid belov'd in other days!
 Unchang'd she shone in virtue's brightest rays,—
 Quick on myself I turn'd the searching thought,
 There all was dark with sin, and with disgrace;
 Illicit loves of Ind—how dearly bought!—
 I felt my love of home had long decay'd
 Beneath the chilling years of "hope deferr'd,"
 Deep in my heart avenging conscience prey'd,
 That heart that wish'd too late, it ne'er had err'd:
 Struck with the contrast, agonizing sighs
 Convulsive tore my breast, and torrents fill'd my eyes.

ASIATICUS.

Ode.

To —————.

O thou! whose toil no respite knows,
 Nor calumny can sink in gloom;
 Brightly around thy learned brows
 The garland shall for ever bloom!

Go on, enraptur'd with the muse,
 Thy labours still with joy pursue,
 Unmindful of the low abuse
 Of servile imitating crew!

The leaden darts of slander's tongue
 With silent dignity confound—
 Thy cheerful toils shall be ere long
 In spite of opposition crown'd.

Boldly put forth thy ardent mind,
 At envy's threats you soon shall smile;
 Amidst thy labours still thou'lt find
 The muses mingling with the toil.

For ever welcome is thy page,
 Which gay with serious subject blends,
 Like dews succeeding Phœbus' rage,
 The wearied mind in mirth unbends.

Thus Flora in her wreath entwines
 The blushing rose and violet blue;
 Thus in its varied colours shines
 Bright Iris on the raptur'd view.

OSCAR.

Deaths.

On the 23d instant, after an illness of 20 days, of a bilious fever, Mr. JOHN CURBIN, aged 27 years, leaving in England a tender wife and mother with many relatives and friends, to deplore their untimely and irreparable loss.

At Cawnpore, on the 16th instant, JOHN, the infant Son of Captain H. E. PITMAN, of the 50th Regiment.

On the 7th instant, REBEKAH, the infant Daughter of Mr. W. MILNE, Assistant at the Muttra Pay Office, aged 7 months and 25 days.

Burial Ground at Howrah.

To the Editor of the Bengal Hurkaru.

Sir,

The inconvenience to which the Inhabitants of Howrah must have been subject from the want of a Burial Ground, is obvious, but, I am happy to hear, that the Government have resolved to station a Chaplain at that place, and there need be no doubt but their liberality will readily provide a Burial Ground, and all other conveniences necessary to a Christian Establishment. In the mean time an arrangement is already in progress for the temporary relief of this difficulty.

I am Sir, your obedient Servant,

September 27, 1822.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Shipping Arrivals.

CALCUTTA.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Sept. 27	Larkins	British	H. R. Wilkinson	London	April 30
27	Neuville Alliance	French	Gautherin	Bordeaux	May 31
27	Abbassy	Arab	Ally Rohoman	Muscat	Aug. 30
27	Futtah Mobarruck	Arab	Abdullah Moh.	Muscat	Aug. 24

MADRAS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Sept. 7	Hasmy	British	J. J. Danham	Bencoolen	Aug. 17
7	Swan	British	T. Ross	Carical	Sept. 6
7	H. M. S. Tees	British	T. Coe	Trincomalie	Sept. 5
7	H. M. Sch. Cochlin	British	E. Tincombe	Trincomalie	Sept. 6
8	Lady Kennaway	British	C. Beach	Calcutta	Aug. 20
9	Earl Kellie	British	R. Edmonds	Bencoolen	Aug. 18

Stations of Vessels in the River.

CALCUTTA, SEPTEMBER 26, 1822.

At Diamond Harbour.—CAMOENS, (P.) outward-bound, remains,—LARKINS, inward-bound, remains.

New Anchorage.—H. C. Ships PRINCE REGENT, and ASIA,—MARY, (Schooner).

Saugor.—JULIANA, and ERNAAD, (H. C. S.) outward-bound, remains.

Passengers.

Passengers per Ship LARKINS, Captain H. R. Wilkinson, from London the 30th of April, Madeira the 22d of May, Madras the 13th of September, and Manipatam the 16th ditto.

From London.—Mrs. Wilkinson, Mrs. Mary Bryce, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Ferrar, Mrs. Hume, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Peirson; Misses Buckley, Helen Merchant, Maria Yates, Jane Cox, Sarah Smith, and Charlotte Smith; Dr. James Bryce, Captain Dalgairns, 7th Regiment Native Infantry, Captain Buckley, 18th Regiment of Native Infantry; Lieutenants Norman, Ferrar, Hume, and Smith, Quarter Master, of His Majesty's 41st Regiment; Messrs. G. Spry, and Robert Smith, Cadets; Mr. H. Lundie, Merchant; Messrs. George Johnson, and J. Pierson, Free Merchants; Masters William Smith, Henry Smith, James Smith, L. Smith, J. Ferrar, and F. Ferrar. From Madras.—Mrs. Yates and 4 Children, Mrs. Sarah Oman, Lieutenant Colonel Yates, Lieutenant Warren, and Mr. Murry, Midshipman of H. M. S. LIFFEY.

Passengers per MEDINA, from Bombay for Liverpool.—Mrs. McLeane, Mrs. Newhouse, Major Hutchison, Captain McLeane, Captain Place, Lieutenant McLeane, Lieutenant Penkin, Lieutenant Booth, Lieutenant Barnes, Lieutenant Faden, Lieutenant Newhouse, Lieutenant Lynel, Lieutenant Workman, Lieutenant Malkerne, Lieutenant Daniel, Ensigns Brown, and Mackay, 8 Soldiers and 1 Woman of the 65th Regt.

Marriage.

At Madras, on the 9th instant, at St. Mary's Church, by the Reverend Mr. LEWIS, Serjeant Major GEORGE GURNELL, of the Engineers Department, to Miss EMELIA HELEN YOUNG.

Births.

On the 26th instant, the Lady of Captain JOHN OLIVER, 2d Battalion 11th Regiment of Native Infantry, of a Son.

Off the Sandheads, on the 17th instant, on board the MOIRA, the Lady of Lieutenant CHESNEY, of the Bengal Artillery, of a Son.

At Madras, on the 9th instant, the Lady of JOHN DENT, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Son.

At Madras, on the 7th instant, the Lady of Captain R. H. RUSSELL, 6th Light Cavalry, of a Daughter.

At Vepery, on the 9th instant, the Lady of JOHN DE URILLA, Esq. of a Son.